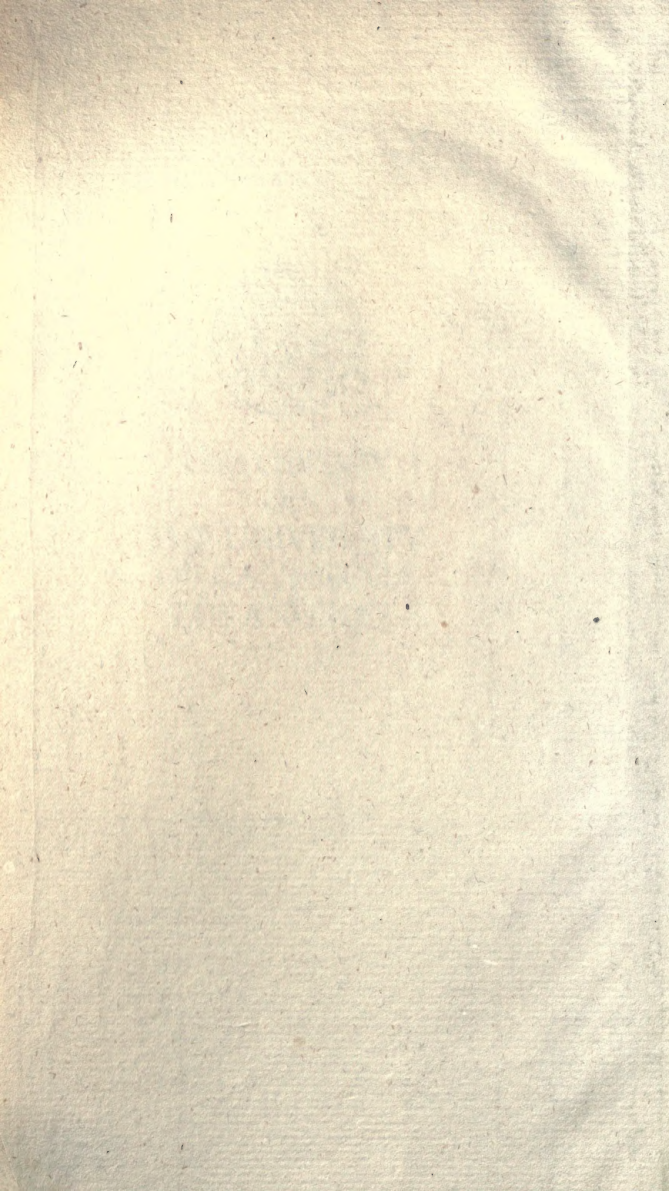
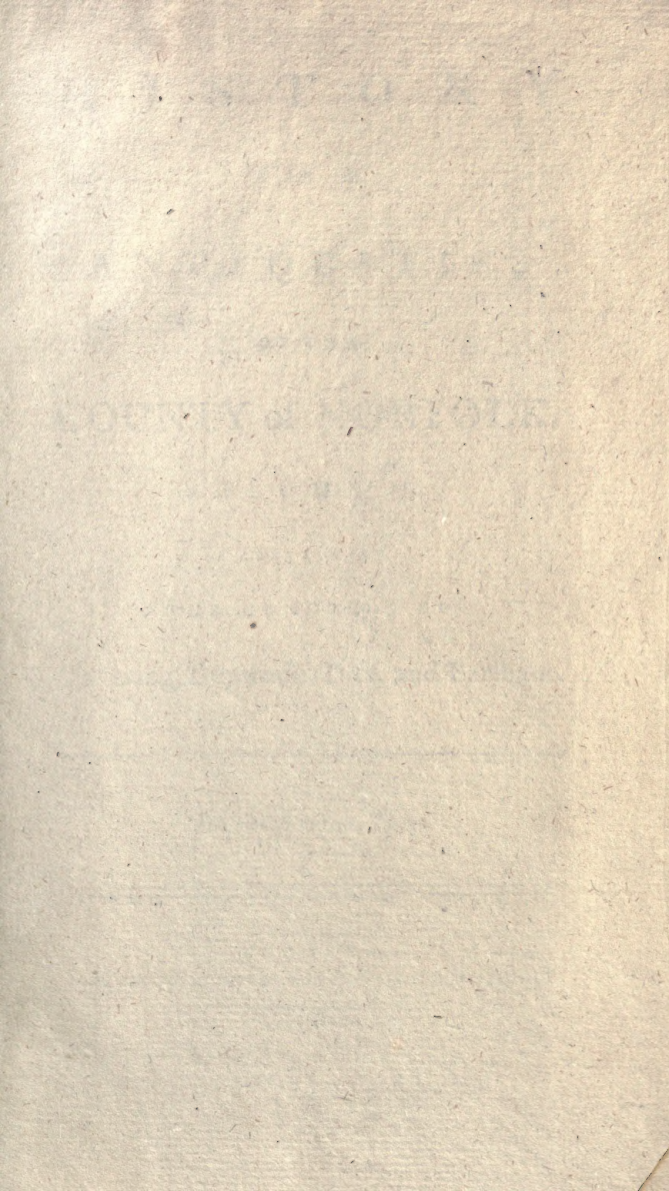


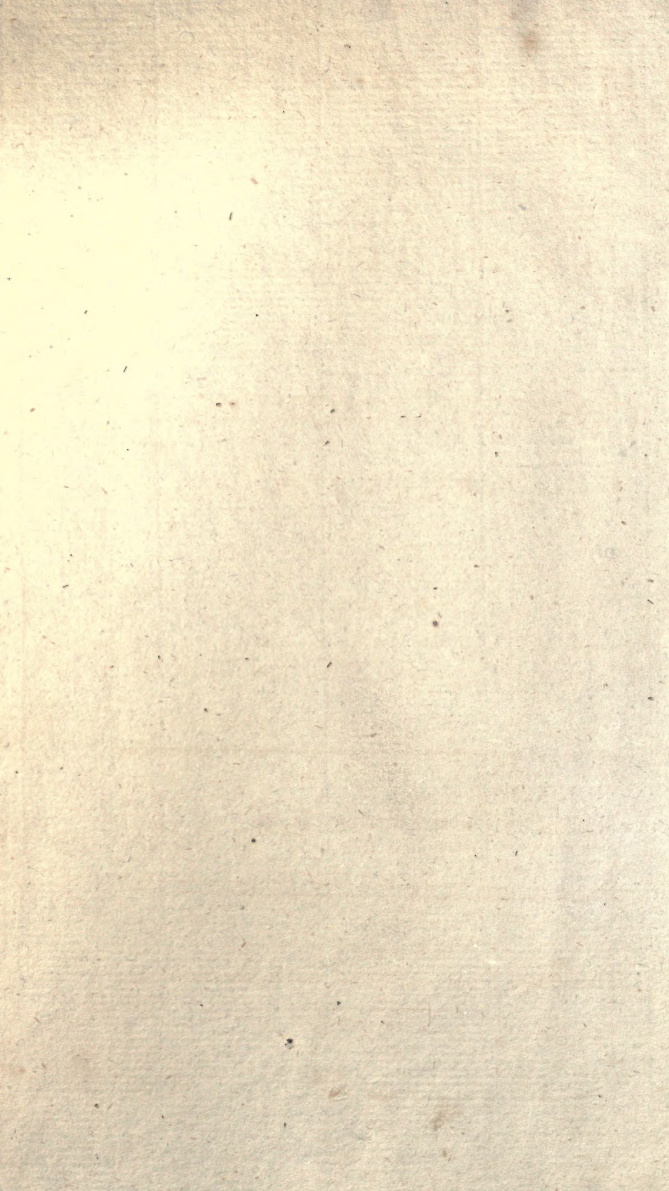


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V O L U M E I I .

C O N T A I N I N G

T H E H U N D R E D S O F

Clavering, Depwade, Diffs, and Earsham.

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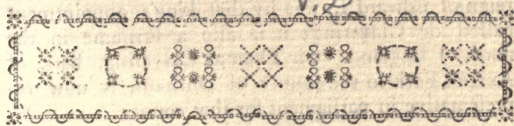
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HUNDRED of CLAVERING.

 N Doomsday-book called Clavelinga, from Clay (as Clay by the sea coast, and Cockley Clay in Clackclose hundred) and Linga, lying or being seated by the water and low meadows, It was in the crown, and united to the hundred of Loddon, and farmed together, by sir John de Clavering, in the reign of Edward I. This family might take their name from the town of Clavering, situated near the rise of the river Stort, in the hundred of Clavering in Effex, of which town sir John de Clavering, a nobleman, being lord in the
A reign

reign of Edward I. was by that king's appointment called de Clavering; it is also a surname in the north of England. Sir Thomas Clavering, bart. of Axwell Park in the county of Durham, is now representative in parliament for that county.

This hundred is bounded on the north by the river Yare, which divides it from Walsingham, on the south and east by the river Waveney, and on the west by the hundred of Loddon: the greatest extent in length is from the bridge at Bungay, to the confluence of the Yare and Waveney at Braydon near Yarmouth, about eleven miles; and the greatest extent in width is from Heckingham to Burgh St. Peter, about six miles. It is a very rich and pleasant part of Norfolk, and contains the following towns, to which we add the number of votes polled by freeholders resident in each at the contested election in 1768.

		W.	deG.	A.	C.
Aldby	-	7	7	1	1
Bergh Apton	-	6	4	3	4
Brooke	-	1	1	9	9
Burgh St. Peter	-	3	3	1	1
Ellingham	-	4	5	3	2
Geldestone	-	1	1	1	1
Gillingham St. Mary	}	5	5	1	1
Gillingham All Saints					
Haddiscoe and	}	6	6	5	7
Haddiscoe Thorpe					
Hales	-	3	3	0	0
Heckingham	-	0	1	1	0
Howe	-	0	0	2	2
Kirby-Cane	-	3	3	0	0
Norton Subcorfe	-	5	6	2	1
Raveningham	-	1	1	1	1
Stockton	-	1	1	0	0
					Thurlton

Thurlton	-	4	6	1	1
Tolt Monks	-	5	4	2	3
Whetacre All Saints		0	0	1	1
Total		55	57	34	35

Seats and principal Houses in this Hundred.

<i>Brooke,</i>	John Fowle, esq.
<i>Ditto,</i>	Roger Kerrison, esq.
<i>Burgh St. Peter,</i>	Rev. Samuel Boycat.
<i>Gillingham,</i>	Francis Schutz, esq.
<i>Raveningham,</i>	Sir Edmund Bacon, bart.

The parishes of Bergh Apton, Brooke and Howe, are separated from the other part of this hundred by the hundred of Loddon. Clavering pays to the general rate of the county of Norfolk 19l. 4s. 6d. to a fix hundred pound levy.

ALDEY. ALDEBY, ALDBIE, OR ALDEBURGH, wrote in Doomfday-book Aldeburg. Ralph de Beaufoe had a grant of this lordship from the Conqueror, and possessed it at the survey; a free-man of archbishop Stigand was lord in king Edward's reign; it was valued at 40s. and there was a church with twelve acres, valued at 2s. there were also lands, &c. valued at 33s. but at the survey at 6l. 10s. The whole was one leuca long, and half a leuca broad, and paid 2s. 1d. ob. gelt, whoever possessed it.

Ralph de Beaufoe was a near relation, or son to William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, chancellor to the Conqueror, and left at his death an only daughter, Agnes, who brought it by marriage to
Hubert

Hubert de Rye, castellan of Norwich castle, son of Hubert de Rye, a trusty servant to William the Conqueror, when duke of Normandy: this Agnes, at the request of Herbert, bishop of Norwich, granted great part of this lordship to the priory of Norwich, founded by that bishop, with the patronage of the church, which the said bishop appropriated to the said priory, and a small priory was erected here, as a cell to that priory, dedicated to St. Mary, consisting of a prior and three black monks.

Henry I. by his præcipe commands, "that the church, all the land and men, &c. which Agnes de Bello gave to the monks of the Holy Trinity of Norwich, in Aldebi, be held by them in perpetual alms, and that no injury, &c. be offered them." The said king confirmed the grant of Hubert de Rye, of tithes in Swanton, Hockering, Deopham, &c. "with the church and manor of Aldby, which Agnes de Bello, his wife, had granted to the said priory, with Richard, her son, and Anthony, her chaplain, whom they had taken into their society, the tithe of the whole village and hall, 100 acres of arable land, 100 sheep, a marsh with pasture for 100 sheep, also common of pasture, a carucate of land, with six socmen, six lancheches,* and 40s. rent in Thurketeliart," on the petition of Henry de Rye, son and heir of Hubert and Agnes.

Henry de Rye granted two parts of the tithe of all the lands which his father, or he himself ever held in demean, to the priory of Norwich, as his father and mother had granted when they laid the second stone, on the foundation of the priory church in Aldby.

In

* Landcheap, or Lancheches, an ancient customary fine paid on the sale, &c. of land.

In the 14th of Edward I. William Rosceline gave the king 10*l.* for a licence to purchase of William, prior of Norwich, and the convent, the lordship of this town, called in the record Audeby, excepting thirty messuages, five hundred acres of land, forty of meadow, three hundred of marsh, forty of wood, a mill, ten marks rent per ann. and the advowson of the church, all which the prior reserved to the convent, and was called the prior's manor, distinct from the other. This shews that manors have been erected within time of prescription, though some lawyers say otherwise; and what is another proof, in a pleading *A^o. 6^o.* Edward II. the jury for the hundred of Middleton, in Kent, present, "that in the time of Richard I. Stephen de Northwode purchased some assarted land, which land was at the time of the presentment called the manor of Northwode Castneys." In the 14th also of the said king, the prior claimed the assise, view of frank pledge, &c. of his tenants; and in the 35th year, had a grant of free-warren.

Laurence, prior of Norwich, vicar general to Thomas, bishop of Norwich, appoints John de Bedingfield, prior of this cell, to take the confessions, to absolve and to enjoin the penances of the prioress, and nuns of Bungay; dated at Norwich, May 27, 1355.

The temporalities of the priory were valued in 1428, at 7*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* in the 6th of Edward IV. the lady Isabel Morley died patroness, as heir to the founders, Hubert and Agnes de Rye.

On the dissolution it came to the crown, and on the foundation of a dean and chapter at Norwich, by Henry VIII. in 1538, was granted to them, and so continues.

In 1376 sir Thomas Savage, knt. was buried by the south porch in the church yard of the priory church: all the monks, except two, were at the dissolution said to be desirous of being discharged.

The family of de Rosceline had an interest in this town; William de Rosceline held here and in Whetacre, a quarter of a fee, A°. 20 of Henry III. of John de Marshal (baron of Rye, in right of Alice his wife, daughter and coheir of Hubert de Rye, the last heir male of that family;) he was father of sir Thomas de Rosceline, who in the 53d of the said king, was querent in a fine, and William, son of Adam de Audeley, desorciant of a messuage and forty acres of land here and in Whetacre, granted to sir Thomas, who covenants to grant to William, for life, competent maintenance in eating and drinking, as one of his esquires; and in the 55th year had a grant of free-warren, and a weekly market and fair in this town.

In the 14th of Edward I. William Rosceline claimed the assise of his tenants, view of frank-pledge, a gallows and free-warren; having purchased a lordship of the prior of Norwich, in this town, there being certain differences between the prior and sir William, about the rights of common, the prior was allowed by sir William to take marle out of the great common of Aldby, called then Mekylheyth, to marle his lands, by agreement, dated 1310. This we mention to prove that this method and way of improving lands in the county of Norfolk, was then (so many years past) made use of.

Sir William Rosceline and Joan his wife, in the 4th of Edward II. settled it on themselves for life; remainder to William Marshall, baron of Rye, and his heirs, by fine; and John le Marshall, his son,

died lord, whose sister and heir, Hawise, brought it by marriage to sir Robert Morley, who was lord in 1330; in this family it remained till Alianore, daughter and heir of Robert, lord Morley (the last heir male of that family) being married to William, younger son of William, lord Lovell of Titchmarsh, was baron of Rye, and lord of this manor in her right, and died lord in 1475. Henry, his son, dying without issue, Alice, his only sister, wife of sir William Parker, inherited it, and was baron of Rye, whose descendant, Edward Parker, lord Morley, baron of Rye, was lord in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and conveyed it to his second son, Henry Parker, of Horn castle in Lincolnshire, esq. After this it came to the Calthorpes, and by an inquisition taken in 1637, sir Henry Calthorpe, of Ampton in Suffolk, second son of sir James Calthorpe, of Cockthorpe in Norfolk, knt. died seised of it; he was recorder of London, &c. and James was his son and heir, who possessed it in 1660, and James Calthorpe, esq. his son, in 1698; in the said family it remained in 1742. This manor was called Aldby-hall.

The church was dedicated to St. Mary, and appropriated by bishop Herbert to the priory of Norwich, being valued at sixteen marks.

On a grave-stone in the chancel—*Margaret, wife of Edmund Bendish, gent. who died Sept. 26, 1681.*

One—*William Wall, eldest son of Franc. Wall, of Aldeby, gent. died June 23, 1685.*

Another—*John Denny, gent. buried Feb. 11, 1680.*

John Baspole, gent. buried in the church 1530, and Thomas Baspole in the south aisle, by his parents,

8 HUNDRED OF

rents, A°. 1551. This family had a lease of the priory manor.

The family of London lived here, and had a lease of it.

In the church was a chapel dedicated to St. Furceus; offerings were made to this saint, and certain tithes belonged to it.

At the survey we meet with a town, of which Ralph de Beaufoe was lord, called Thurketeliart, of which a free-man of Stigand's was deprived. It had a church endowed with 20 acres, valued at 40d. fifteen free-men belonged also to the lord, and were under his protection, with six carucates and six acres of meadow, valued at 4l. before, and the same at the survey.

This considerable village, as it appears to have been at the survey, is now quite destroyed, and the lands being near to Aldeburgh are included therein, and were made part of the priory lands there, in the reign of Henry I. as is before observed.

In 1756, the Rev. Abraham Dawson was presented to this curacy, by the dean and chapter of Norwich.

This village is pleasantly situated on the sunny side of the navigable river Waveney, three miles from Beccles, and five from St. Olave's bridge.

BERGH APTON. Mr. Parkin, continuator of Blomefield's Essay, places this, and the parish of Brooke, in Loddon hundred.

APTON.

APTON. Called in Doomſday-book, Appleton. Roger Bigot had then 30 acres of land in demean, and one borderer. This, with ſome land of his in Thurton, Carleton, and Mundham, were then valued at 30s. and the ſoc was in the lord of the hundred.

Robert de Vaux held it under Roger, and from the Vaux it came to the lords Roos, &c. The lordſhip of Bergh alſo extended into it; but this town has been deſtroyed time immemorial.

A church formerly belonged to it, dedicated to St. Martin, was a rectory, in the patronage of the Vaux, and came by the heiresses of that family to the Nerefords, and lord Roos. In the 8th of Henry III. Robert de Nereford was querent, and Roger le Pavilly impendent, of the advowſon of this church, and five acres of land granted to Robert and his heirs.

In the reign of Edward I. the rector had a manſe, with ten acres of glebe; it was then valued with Bergh, and the lord of Bergh was patron. After this we find it called a chapel, and has been deſtroyed about two centuries paſt.

BERGH-APTON. This town does not occur in the book of Doomſday, ſo as to give us a ſatisfactory account of the tenure of the principal lordſhip; we only meet with a ſmall fee, or lands, which St. Etheldreda (that is the church of Ely) held in Thurton and Thorpe in this hundred, as may be there ſeen, and are ſaid to belong to Berc, with all their cuſtomy dues, and to be valued there.

It is certain that the ancient family de Monte Caniſio were ſoon after the Conqueſt poſſeſſed of it.

Agnes

Agnes, widow of Warine, lord Montchenfy, held it about the goth of Henry II. being then sixty years of age, of the church of Ely, as said, and was a widow in the king's disposal or gift. Sir William and sir Ralph de Montchenfy were her sons, and Hubert, who was a clerk, she had also two daughters.

William de Montchenfy, by deed, sans date, grants to Ralph de Bradeker all the land which was Gilbert de Karlemant's, belonging to his manor of Bergh, paying 12d. per ann.

Warine, lord Montchenfy, gave in the 15th of king John two thousand marks for livery of his inheritance; and had by Joan his wife, daughter and co-heir of William Marshall, earl of Pembroke, William his son and heir, who married Dionysia, daughter and heir of Nicholas Annesley, whose son William, leaving an only daughter and heir, Dionysia, brought this lordship, &c. to Hugh de Vere, and dying without issue, her inheritance descended to Joan, her father's sister, married to William de Valentia, earl of Pembroke, lord of Bergh and Ap-
ton. In the 7th of Edward II. his son and heir Aylmer, earl of Pembroke, married Mary, daughter of Guy de Chatillon, earl of St. Paul in France, but dying in the 17th of Edward II. his two sisters were found to be his heirs.

Isabel, the eldest, had a grant of dispensation from the pope, on account of consanguinity, to marry John de Hastings, lord of Abergavenny; and Joan, the youngest, married John Comyn, lord of Baden-
haugh in Scotland.

On a division of the estate, this lordship came to the Hastings.

John

John de Hastings, earl of Pembroke, dying without issue, in the 13th of Richard II. settled (through the persuasion of his mother, as is said) the Hastings estate on her nephew, sir William Beauchamp, 2d son of Thomas earl of Warwick, by Catherine his wife, daughter of Roger Mortimer, earl of March, sister to Agnes, mother of John, earl of Pembroke, aforesaid, by Laurence earl of Pembroke.

Great law-suits commenced on account of this settlement, between Reginald Grey, lord of Ruthyn, as heir, and sir William Beauchamp, which were compromised in the 15th of Richard II. and sir William had a grant of this lordship, &c. with the barony of Abergavenny in Wales.

Joan, widow of sir William, sister and co-heir of Thomas, earl of Arundel, died seised of the castle and manor of Abergavenny, Pembroke's Inn in London, and Kidderminster in Worcestershire, as part of her dower.

Richard Beauchamp, his son and heir, was earl of Worcester, and by Isabel his wife, daughter and co-heir of Richard, son and heir of Thomas, lord de Spencer, had a daughter and sole heir, Elizabeth, who brought the inheritance to her husband, sir Edward Nevill, lord of Abergavenny in her right, fourth son of Ralph Nevill, earl of Westmoreland. At his death, in the 16th of Edward IV. George was his son and heir, who died in 1498, at Chatham in Kent.

George Nevill, lord Abergavenny, his son and heir, had by Mary his second wife, daughter of Edward duke of Bucks, Henry his son and heir, who married Frances, daughter of Thomas earl of Rutland,

Rutland; he dying in the 29th of Elizabeth, left an only daughter and heir, married to sir Thomas Vane; so that his brother Edward's son succeeded him in honour and estate, and was lord Abergavenny.

In this family it still remains, the Right Hon. George Neville, lord Abergavenny, being lord and patron, whose daughter is lately married to sir John Berney, bart. of Kirby-Bedon.

At the time of the law-suits abovementioned, John Maycote, of Brenchesley in Kent, deposed, that he then lived with sir William Brenchesley, who was of counsel to sir Wm. Beauchamp, (afterwards a judge) and one day he invited to dinner at his house, at the end of Pater-noster-row, London, all the said counsel, viz. sir Robert Charlton, William Pynchbeck, William Brenchesley, John Catesley, and other judges of the law; and at the end of dinner he arose from table, went into his chapel, and a little while after, came back, laid a noble before each counsel on the table, saying,

“Sirs, for God's sake inform me fully whether I have any right or not, and delay me no longer.”

They sitting in doubt of his anger, Wm. Pynchbeck said, “Sir William, certainly there is no man who will assure you those lands and lordships, unless you have a release from the heirs of Hastings, and that heir being under age, his release would not signify.” Upon this the composition was made afterwards.

Sir Andrew de Hingham had an interest, and held lands of this manor, and for thirty-five marks of silver gave them to Henry de Norwich, clerk, in the

8th. of Edward I. and in the 17th. of Edward II. Henry de Heylesden held in Bergh cum Apton the sixteenth part of a fee of the barony of Montcheny.

In the 5th of Edward III. Bartholomew Bateman and John de Acre conveyed to John de Berney lands here, in Thurton, Seething, and Mendham, part of which Agnes, widow of Henry de Heylesden, held for life.

Richard de la Rokeley, in the 17th of Edward II. held lands here of the earl of Pembroke, and Thomas his son held them, in the 20th of Edward III. of Mary de St. Paul, countess of Pembroke, Adam Horne, in the 24th of Edward I. granted by fine to Richard de la Rokeley, land, &c. here, in Apton, Holveston, &c.

Apton and Holveston were at this time hamlets belonging to Bergh; now, as we conceive, depopulated.

Richard Berney, esq. of Langley, sold his interest herein to Mr. Green, a yeoman, whose son Thomas enjoyed it; only two copyholders then belonged to it, and the free rents were about 13s. per ann. It was held in soccage of the lords Abergavenny's manor.

On an inquisition taken in 1652. it was found that there were 592 acres of land, subject to be drowned.

Here was also a little manor called Washingford's, from its owner. Francis Wolfe, gent. of Thurton, bought it of William Westgate, and it was held of Bergh Apton manor, paying 2s. per ann. about the reign of queen Elizabeth.

The temporalities of Norwich priory were 3s.

Mr. Roket, rector, gave twenty-eight acres of land to pay the lect fee, 6s. 8d. to the lord yearly, &c.

The church of Bergh cum Apton is a rectory, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, has a nave and south aisle covered with lead, a square tower with six tuneable bells, and a chancel covered with lead.

In the chancel is a grave-stone, *In memory of Robert Connould, rector 48 years and 8 months, who rebuilt the chancel, and died October 31, 1715, in the 76th year of his age.*

Sarah, wife of John Berney, esq. was buried in the chapel of St. Anne in the church, and by his will, in the 48th of Edward III. he gives a legacy to the making of a new window in the new chancel of this church.

In the reign of Edward I. William lord Montchenfy was patron of the church; the rector had then a manse, with fourteen acres of land, and held it with Apton, and a mediety of the church of Holveston; there was also a vicarage erected out of the profits of the rectory, belonging to the fee of the prioress of Carrowe, endowed with thirty acres of land, and valued together at 26 marks.

Carrowe priory had a portion of tithe valued at 26s. 8d. given by William lord Montchenfy.

The present value of Bergh with Apton and Holveston mediety, is 13l. 6s. 8d. and pays first fruits, &c.

The

The chapel of Apton was standing in 1359.

Holveston appears then to have been a village, and to have had a church, to which there belonged two medieties; to one of these the rector of Bergh was presented in 1359, and so remains annexed at this time.

There was a good family that took their name from it; John de Holveston, and Thomas his son, were lords of a manor in Heveringland in the reign of Edward III.

In 1765, the Rev. Nevill Walter was presented to the rectory of Bergh-Apton, with a mediety of Holveston, by the Right Hon. lord Abergavenny.

BROOKE, wrote in Doomsday-book Bro. The lordship of this town was in the abbey of St. Edmund of Bury at the survey, and Frodo held it of the said convent, with a carucate of land. Toli was lord of it, and sheriff; he gave it to St. Edmund, (that is the abbey) in the time of king Edward the Confessor, and afterwards held or farmed it by the service of finding that convent provision for two days. It was valued at twenty shillings, and the soc was in the abbey.

This account, which is authentic, is partly contradicted by a register of Bury abbey, which says that William the Conqueror gave it to St. Edmund, when he first supplicated his favour and protection, falling prostrate before him, and placing a small knife, wrapped up, on the altar of St. Edmund, in the presence of many of his chief nobility; and also the grant, signed with his seal, which the register

observes was at that time preserved in the said convent:

“He grants it, with all its appurtenances, *fac, foc,* and all customary dues, as Grith, the powerful earl, held it in the time of good king Edward, and as he, now king of England, possessed it.”

Before this grant or confirmation of the Conqueror, Grith, or Guert, was said to have held it, who was fifth son of earl Godwin, and brother of king Harold, slain with him at the battle of Hastings.

In the Register of the Sacrist, this manor we find was appropriated to the use of the chamberlain of this abbey, as the rectory was appropriated also.

The abbot, in the 13th of king John, had a discharge of scutage for fifty-two knights fees in Norfolk and Suffolk, on the Scotch war; and in the 52d of Henry III. he pleaded an exemption, and would not suffer the king's bailiff to enter this lordship.

In the 10th of Edward I. he had a grant of a weekly market and a fair.

In the Iter of the Judges of Norwich, a fine was levied the day after St. Michael, between William de Dunston, Thomas de Nereford, William de Gunthorpe, &c. pétents, and John, abbot of Bury, tenant, whereby they release to the abbot all their right in this manor and advowson.

In the 14th of Edward I. and in the following year, the abbot claimed view of frank-pledge, assise, free-

free-warren, and other privileges belonging to that abbey.

Their temporalities were valued in 1428 at 35*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* ob.

It continued in this monastery, held by one fee, till the general dissolution, when it came to the crown; and on May 27, in the 3*d* and 4*th* of Philip and Mary, was granted to Francis Yaxley, and Richard his brother; and soon after, in the said year, Thomas Yaxley alienated it to Jeffrey Warde, gent. who died seised of it in the 1*st* of Elizabeth; and Thomas his son and heir had a grant in 1576, from Robert Cook, Clarencieux, of arms.

In this family it remained, Robert Warde, gent. was lord in 1672.

Thomas Seaman, sen. gent. was lord in 1723; and Thomas Seaman lord in 1740, and patron.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and the rectory was appropriated to the chamberlain of St. Edmund's Bury, a vicarage being settled, valued at five marks, the rectory at 50 marks.

To the rectory belonged a carucate of land; the vicar had a manse and ten acres of land; but in the reign of Edward I. there was no land.

John Grey, bishop of Norwich, appropriated the rectory to the chamberlain, after the decease of Hubert de Brock, rector. saving an honourable support for the vicar, to be assigned by the bishops of Norwich.

At the dissolution, the rectory, &c. came to the crown, and queen Elizabeth, on July 25, in her 6th year, granted to Thomas Watwood, and Matthew Bysmere, the great tithes, or the rectory.

In 1603, the vicar returned 130 communicants, and that the king was patron.

On a mural monument against the north wall of the chancel, *Ad hujus muri pedem jacet Johs. Burghill, filius Johs. Burghill, e domo Thinghill, Pa. in paroch. de Withington in comit. Hereford. Armig. obit. 1659.*

On a grave-stone in the chancel, *August. Wood, gent. who died Nov. 6, 1671, aged 68.*

Jeffrey Ward, gent. was buried here in 1558.—Thomas Ward, gent. in 1584.—Robert Wood, esq. in 1654.—Thomas Burghill, gent. in 1659.—Robt. Sugden, gent. in 1666.

This town gives name to a large deanry, comprehending all the towns in Henstead, Loddon, and Clavering hundreds; and is in the archdeaconry of Norfolk.

The deacons were collated by the bishop of Norwich; the last was in 1436.

Brooke is an handsome village, with some neat houses, as summer retreats from Norwich. It lies on the great road leading from Norwich, nearly seven miles, to Bungay, seven and a half.

John Fowle, esq. Roger Kerrison, esq. receiver-general of the land-tax in Norfolk, alderman, and
served

served the office of mayor of the city of Norwich in 1778-9, and the Rev. Samuel Cooper, reside here.

ELLINGHAM, wrote in Doomsday-book Elincham. Many towns begin with El; as Elford, Ellefmere, Eling, Elston, Elwick, from their scite near the water, or a wet soil.

This lordship was part of archbishop Stigand's manor of Suigand, and on the conquest was seized on by the king. At the survey we find William de Noiers to be the king's steward of both, and this was valued and accounted for in Stockton: at the same time it is said that there were five socmen also in Elingham, who had half a carucate and fifteen acres of land, which William de Noiers had the care of for the king, belonging formerly to Stigand, and a church endowed with 24 acres.

King Stephen granted it, with Stockton, to Hugh Bigot, earl of Norfolk; and it was held of the earls of Norfolk by the Bigots, a younger family, descended from the earls. By the heiress of the Bigots it came to William Garneys, so to the de la Poles, and the crown, and was held by Simon Smith in the reign of Charles I. of that king, by a fee-farm-rent, as in Stockton.

NEVILL'S MANOR. The abbot of Bury's manors of Loddon and Thwaite extended into this town, and by a fine levied in the 8th of Richard I. Ernold de Charneles, acknowledged that he held of the abbot of Bury one fee here, in Norton, &c. by the payment of twenty shillings scutage, and to Norwich castle guard, before the king's justices at Westminster.

After this the abbot was found to have one fee here, in Stockton, &c. held by Rager de Thweyt.

In the reign of Henry VIII. Thomas Bishop conveyed to Richard Spooner, lands, &c. in Ellingham, Stockton, Kirkby, &c.

John Castell had livery of the manor of Ellingham-Nevill's, about the 20th of Elizabeth, which was purchased of him by William Copping. Richard Hamond, of Ellingham was lord in 1602, and John Hamond, gent. died possessed of it in 1632. In 1688 it was sold to Miles Baspole, of Aylsham, by John Hamond, and Miles conveyed it to sir William Hicks, of Rockholt in Essex.

The temporality of Langley abbey were 10s. 5d. of Broomholm priory 1rs.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a rectory.

In the reign of Edward I. Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, as capital lord, was patron. The rector had then a manse and 40 acres of glebe; it was valued at twenty marks; the present value is 12l.

In 1320, Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, was patron.

In 1603, the rector returned one hundred and six communicants.

The Right Hon. the earl of Suffolk is patron, and the present value is 12l, and pays first fruits &c.

In

In the fourth aisle, on a grave-stone, *Orate p. a'ia Johs. Ellyingham, gen. qui obt. 21 Maij, 1497.*

Against the wall here, on a monument, *Johs. Hammond, gen. qui ab anno 3, ad 31 Regine Elizab. in hac villa pie, honeste et frugaliter vixi, Calend. Feb, matura senectute decessit, et hic jacet sepultus.* This John purchased Nevill's manor of Copping.

In a window of the said aisle are the arms of Ellyingham.

In 1746, the Rev. Richard Chase was presented to this rectory by the bishop of Norwich; by lapse.

GELDESTONE, GELDESTON, or GELDISTON. This town is not mentioned in the book of Doom-day, being included and accounted for under the great lordship of Stockton, of which archbishop Stigand was deprived, and William de Noiers was the Conqueror's steward of it at the survey. It remained in the crown till king Stephen granted it to Hugh Bigot, on his being created earl of Norfolk; Roger Bigot, his son, being earl, enfeoffed sir Ralph Bigot, his brother of this town, and of Stockton, and was lord of both in the 24th of Henry III. and dying without issue, sir John Bigot, of Settingham in Yorkshire, was lord in the 15th of Edward I. In this family it remained till Elizabeth, daughter and heir of sir Ralph Bigot, brought it by marriage to William Garneys, esq. who died lord in the 8th of Richard V. from that family it came to the de la Poles, earls and dukes of Norfolk; after this, by a grant of the crown, to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, &c.

In

In the reign of queen Elizabeth it was again in the crown, and so continues, as may be seen at large in Stockton.

The church is a rectory dedicated to St. Michael, in the reign of Edward I. valued at ten marks, and the earl of Norfolk was patron; the rector had a manse with thirty acres of land.

In 1603 the rector returned sixty-four communicants, and the patronage was in the crown. The present value is 6l. and is discharged.

Sir Ralph Bigot was buried in the chancel of St. Michael's church, of Geldestone, in 1415.

In the east window of the chancel—*Orate pro aīa Radulphi Garneys, armigeri, quondam dni. de Stockton.*

In 1754, the Rev. John Fayerman was presented to this rectory by the king.

GILLINGHAM, called in the grand survey Kildincham. Two free-men of Guert, king Harold's brother, had 30 acres, with half a carucate and an acre of meadow, and on their deprivation it was in the Conqueror's possession, and valued with the manor of Gorleston in Suffolk. Stigand had formerly the soc; and it is here expressed, that every church was valued with the manor, which shews that the presentations were at that time in the lords of the manors.

Another part was, in king Edward's reign, possessed by twelve free-men. In the same town, four free-men had 15 acres and half a carucate; and Stigand had the soc before the conquest: this was added to,
and

and valued with Sugand's manor of Ercham, and was measured with Stockton. William de Noiers was the king's steward of it at the survey.

Out of these two fees arose two lordships, with two churches; one was granted by king Stephen to Hugh de Bigot, on his being created earl of Norfolk, and to this belonged the patronage of the church of All Saints. Roger earl of Norfolk dying without issue, in the reign of Edward I. gave it to that king, and was after granted to Thomas de Brotherton earl of Norfolk, and came by marriage to John lord Seagrave, and to the Mowbrays dukes of Norfolk. This was the capital lordship, and had the patronage of the church of All Saints, and was that which Stigand, archbishop of Canterbury, was deprived of.

From the Mowbrays it descended to the Howards, dukes of Norfolk, and being forfeited to the crown on the attainder of Thomas duke of Norfolk, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, was granted by James I. to Henry Howard, earl of Northampton, on June 17, anno 1, from whom it came to Thomas Howard earl of Surry.

Sir Nicholas Bacon, bart. of Redgrave, was lord and patron, and gave it to his sixth son, Nicholas, whose descendent sir Edmund Bacon, bart. enjoyed it in 1742, as after appears in the following lordship.

The other lordship of which Guert was deprived, had the patronage of the church of St. Mary, and was in Jeffrey de Ponte, or Pount, in the 55th of Henry III. but when granted from the crown does not appear. In the said year Jeffrey granted by fine to Roger de Ponte for life, the remainder to Jeffrey and

and his heirs, land, &c. with the advowson of St. Mary's church.

In 1320, Bartholomew Bateman presented to the church, as guardian of Christiana, daughter and heir of William de Horsford; and in 1344, sir Bartholomew Bateman presented in his own right as lord; and in the 35th of Edward III. Ralph Gerberge, son of sir Edward Gerberge, released to sir Laurence de Bremle and his heirs, all his right in the moieties of Martham and Gillingham, with lands in Winston, Windele, &c.

Thomas Bateman, esq. (a descendent of Bartholomew) of South Elmham, in the parish of St. Mary, of Flixton in Suffolk, died in 1485, and left this, amongst other manors, to his eldest son Robert.

In the 28th of Henry VIII. Thomas Bateman passed it by fine, with the advowson, to John Everard. William Everard, gent. in the 1st of queen Elizabeth, was found to die seised of it, held of the queen's manor of Stockton.

In the manor-house were the arms of Everard, impaling Heveningham, also impaling Appleyard; and Chauncey, of Edgecote in Northamptonshire.

Sir Clement Higham, and after him Michael Hare, esq. held it in the 44th of Elizabeth.

After this it was in the Bacons, and sir Nicholas Bacon, bart. was lord in the 9th of James I. of Redgrave in Suffolk, premier baronet of England, and eldest son of sir Nicholas Bacon, lord keeper of the great seal. This sir Nicholas, the baronet, married Ann, daughter and heir of Edmund Butts, esq.
by

by whom he had several sons, &c. To Nicholas, his sixth son, he gave this lordship, who married, first, Ann, daughter and heir of sir James Weston, baron of the Exchequer, by whom he had a daughter, Ann, married to John Rous, esq. of Henham in Suffolk: by his second wife Mary, daughter of Eustace Darcy, esq. he had Nicholas his son and heir, created a baronet Feb. 7, 1661. By Mary his wife, daughter and heir of Richard Freestone, of Mendham in Suffolk, esq. he left sir Edmund, his eldest son, who died without issue in 1684, and was succeeded by his brother sir Richard, who married Ann, daughter of sir Henry Bacon, bart. son of sir Butts Bacon, bart. of Mildenhall in Suffolk, and dying without issue in 1685, gave his estate to sir Henry Bacon, bart. of Herringfleet, his wife's brother. This sir Henry, by a daughter of sir John Castleton, bart. of Sturston in Suffolk, was father of sir Edmund Bacon, bart,

Sir Edmund Bacon, bart. died Oct. 2, 1738, and left his only son, sir Edmund Bacon, bart. who was lord and patron in 1742.

Sir Edmund Bacon, bart. who died Oct. 2, 1738, married the daughter of Martin Rebow, esq. of Colchester in Essex and left issue one son and a daughter; sir Edmund, who succeeded him in honour and estate, and Susan, afterwards married to Francis Schutz, esq. the son of colonel Schutz. Sir Edmund was member of parliament for the borough of Thetford.

Sir Edmund Bacon, bart. his only son, at the decease of his father, was a minor, and educated at Westminster school: from Westminster he removed to Gonville and Caius college in Cambridge, and
was

was admitted a nobleman of that university. After finishing his studies, he was introduced at court to the late king George II. by the late duke of Grafton, then lord chamberlain of his majesty's household, and soon after was appointed one of the gentlemen ushers daily waiters, with a view of succeeding fir Henry Bellenden, as gentleman usher of the Black Rod to the House of Lords; but unfortunately catching the small-pox at London the latter end of the year 1749, he died in a very few days, universally lamented, having survived his father only twelve years, and in the 25th year of his age.

The following inscription to his memory was wrote by major Richard Gardiner, of Mount Amelia.

EDMUNDUS BACON ~~BARONULUS~~

Ævi Flos et Decus fui

A. S. M.DCC.XLIII.

In Academia

Claruit

A. M.DCC.XLIX.

Variolis Corruptus Occubuit

Æt. XXV.

Flevit Soror Optima Pulcherrima

De Die in Diem Amici

Extinctum Plorant

Flet Soror Flent Amici

At Mater!

See, mortal! where yon hallow'd tapers burn,
Another BACON bearing to his urn!
Born with all charms, and blest with ev'ry art
To win, to warm, to captivate the heart:
The joys of virtue all the joys he knew,
Tho' brave and fair, and gay and young as you.
To

To sooth affliction, or to soften pain,
 He never spoke, nor ever look'd in vain.
 Love's sweetest smiles sat blooming on his brow,
 Graceful in all he did, as thou art now.
 Love's sweetest smiles, alas! too weak to save,
 See! doom'd like thee and victims to the grave:
 Yet shall he live, grim tyrant! and defy
 Thy sting, O Death! O Grave! thy Victory.
 Far from the white-plum'd hearse Astrea fled,
 The penfive Graces, weeping, hung the head;
 Ev'n Envy sigh'd as she beheld the bier,
 And from her eye burst forth th' unwilling tear.

O Friend! for let me call thee by that name,
 What verse, O say! can give thee all thy fame?
 Or to proud Norfolk's sons his virtues tell,
 Who died so lovely, or who liv'd so well!

In this town were two churches. All Saints was a rectory, containing two ailes, and a chancel thatched, with a square tower and three bells.

In the chancel was a grave-stone, *In memory of John Frebrygge, rector, who died 15xviii.*

Also one, *In remembrance of Margery Smith, eldest daughter of Nicholas Garneys, of Redsham Hall in Suffolk, Esq. 2d wife of Thomas Smith, of Winston Hall in Norfolk, Esq. who died in 1656..*

In the church-yard, by the south wall of the chancel, is an altar tomb, and against the wall, on a monument, *Thomas Smith, of Winston, Esq. died June 6, 1639, and the arms of Smith and Roberts.*

Robert Towre, buried here in 1530, orders by will a substantial window to be built of stone, with glass, by his executors.

In

In the reign of Edward I. the earl of Norfolk was patron ; the rector had 34 acres, but no manse, and it was valued at nine marks.

In 1603, the rector returned 70 communicants, and the feoffees of the late duke of Norfolk were patrons.

The Rev. sir Charles Castleton, bart. died rector in 1745, and Robert Athow succeeded, *hac vice*, by Christopher Athow, gent.

In 1763, the Rev. Edward Holden was presented to All Saints, with Winston and Windale, by dame Susan Bacon, Francis Schutz, esq. and Susan his wife.

The present value is, together with Winston and Windale, 5l. 6s. 8d. and is discharged. The church was demolished in 1748.

The church of St. Mary is a rectory, valued in Edward I.'s reign at eight marks : the rector had 40 acres of land, but no manse.

In 1603, the rector of St. Mary returned 42 communicants.

In 1742, sir Edmund Bacon was patron. The present value is 5l. 6s. 8d. and is discharged.

The church is a very antique building, a single pile, without any ailes ; at the west end is the font. As you proceed is a four-square tower, then the body of the church, with the chancel, about the same breadth with the church, and ends in a semi-circle.

In

In the tower are three bells; the west end is tiled, and the rest covered with thatch.

As you enter the chancel is a grave-stone, with a brass plate, *In memory of John Everard, Esq. who died October 1553, and of Dorothy his wife, daughter of John Chauncey, of Chauncey Tower in the town of Northampton, Esq.*

Against the south wall of the chancel is a mural monument of marble alabaster—"Nicholaus Bacon, baronettus, profapia illustris, ingenio inclytus, literis ornatus, fama clarescens, corpore vieto, animo vegeto, præmature senescit et sapuit. Post VIII annos et menses IX, quos vixerat prout virum nobilem, philosophum, Christianum decuit. Tandem fato cedens, quod habuit terrenum, terræ reddidit igne recoctum dici novissimi, denuo resumpturus, cœlitus quod erat et patri et patriæ spirituum rediit; ecce cur marmor tanti nominis fastu gravidum tumescit, tanti viri fato frigidum nigrescit, tanti ingenii lævore politum splendet. Vale lector et vivas, honore parili, obiit, M.DC.LXVI. Augi. iii." On the monument are the arms of Bacon and Quaplode, quarterly; also Bacon impaling Freeston.

A marble monument was put up in the church of St. Mary, to the memory of her valuable son, the late sir Edmund Bacon, by lady Bacon, soon after his decease.

Gill is an old British word, and signifies a rivulet; thus Gilling, a town and hundred in Yorkshire; Guiltcross hundred in Norfolk, Gilden in Cambridgeshire, Guilford in Surry, &c.

Thus are all the towns in Norfolk *water-flain* by Parkin and Blomefield, so that one would be apt to think the whole county was a morass, from the definition they have given of the names of towns and villages.

Miss Susan Bacon, only sister of the late sir Edmund Bacon, and heiress, married Francis Schutz, esq. son of colonel Schutz, who is lately deceased, but has left children. Mr. Schutz has greatly improved the family seat at Gillingham, and also the gardens, which were large and spacious in the time of sir Edmund, and there were many exceeding good rooms and apartments in the old hall.

Sir Edmund Bacon, of Gillingham, was next in succession as premier baronet of England to the late sir Edmund Bacon, of Garboldisham, who was elected knight of the shire for the county of Norfolk in the memorable contest of 1734, sir Edmund, of Garboldisham, having no sons.

This village and handsome seat is delightfully situated opposite to the market town of Beccles, which are separated only by the river Waveney, and the meadow grounds that environ it on both sides. The great road leading from London, 108 miles, and Ipswich, 39 miles, to Yarmouth, 15 miles, passes through Beccles*, and this being the only bridge on the

* Beccles, in Suffolk, stands on the river Waveney, which is navigable hither from Yarmouth by barges, and from hence to Bungay. It is a large populous town, and the streets are well paved and kept clean, though the buildings are but mean, many of them being thatched. It has a noble church and two free schools well endowed, one a grammar school, with ten
scholarships

the Waveney between St. Olave's, 8 miles, and Bungay, 5 miles, it is much frequented.

WINSTON. This town is not mentioned in Doomf-day-book, being accounted for in the lordship of Stockton, of which it was a part and member, and was granted, with Stockton, by king Stephen to Hugh Bigot, earl of Norfolk, and held by his descendents, earls of Norfolk, who enfeoffed a younger son, sir Ralph Bigot, therein. By a daughter and heiress of that family it came to the Garneys, the de la Poles, earls of Suffolk, &c.

After this, coming to the crown, William Roberts, attorney, town-clerk of Yarmouth, farmed it of the crown, in the reign of queen Elizabeth: his sister and heir brought it by marriage to Simon Smith, esq. whose son and heir, Thomas, married Margery, daughter of Nicholas Garnish, of Reedesham-hall in Suffolk: he died June 6, 1630, and was buried in the church-yard of Gillingham All Saints; being father of Simon Smith, esq. who married Elizabeth, daughter of sir Edmund Mundeford, sister and heir to her brother, sir Edmund Mundeford, of Feltwell in Norfolk. From the Smiths it came to the Fleetwoods, by Frances, daughter and heir of Thomas Smith, esq. who married Charles Fleetwood, esq. whose son, Smith Fleetwood, esq. was lord in 1708.

D 2 The

Scholarships for Emanuel college in Cambridge. There are still to be seen the ruins of another church here, called Ingate. The quarter-sessions for the liberty of Blithing are usually held here; and a common belonging to the town of no less than 1000 acres. Market on Saturday. Fairs, Ascension day, St. Peter's, June 29, and Oct. 2.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, was a rectory: the rector, in the reign of Edward I. had 20 acres of land valued at 20s. and Roger, earl of Norfolk, was patron.

On the 9th of February, 1440, the bishop's vicar general, by the consent of Thomas duke of Norfolk, and the parishioners, united and consolidated this church to that of Gillingham All Saints. The then rector of Gillingham All Saints was obliged to serve one Sunday at Winston, and the two following at Gillingham.

In the 1st year of Edward IV. John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, died lord and patron; and afterwards the Howards, dukes of Norfolk: and on the attainder of the duke in queen Elizabeth's reign, it came to the crown, but was granted by James I. in his 1st year, to Henry Howard earl of Northampton.

Sir Nicholas Bacon, bart. was patron, and gave it to his sixth son, Nicholas Bacon, esq. who died August 17, anno 17th of Charles I. and it remained in the said family in 1742, sir Edmund Bacon, bart. of Gillingham then enjoying it.

This rectory, with that of Windale, was valued at 5l. 6s. 8d. and discharged, and are both united to Gillingham. The temporalities of Langley abbey were 2s.

WINDALE. This town was also part of the manor of Gillingham and of Stockton, and so is not mentioned in the book of Doomſday; and coming to the crown at the Conquest, so remained, till granted to Hugh Bigot, earl of Norfolk, by king Stephen. From the Bigots it came to Brotherton, earl of Norfolk

folk, &c. so to the Mowbrays and Howards, dukes of Norfolk; and after that in the crown.

In the reign of queen Elizabeth, Edward Everard is said to hold the manor of Windale of the crown, as of her lordship of Stockton.

The church of Windale, dedicated to St. Andrew, was a rectory in the reign of Edward I. in the patronage of Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, and the rector had a manse, with ten acres, valued at 40s.

In 1449, July 20, on the petition of the duke of Norfolk, the patron, it was united to the church of Gillingham All Saints and Winston.

In the 17th of Charles I. this rectory, with that of Winston, was held by Nicholas Bacon, esq. of Simon Smith, esq. as of his manor of Stockton, which he farmed of the crown.

HADDISCOE, HADISCO, or HADESCOE, wrote in Doomsday-book Hatefcois; at the survey was a beruite to the manor of Toft-Monks in this hundred, and William de Noiars was steward of it for the Conqueror, who had deprived Stigand the archbishop, who held it as a lay-fee in the reign of the Confessor. It was valued, together with Toft, in Stigand's time, at 10l. per ann. and at the survey paid 24l. quit-rent. In length they were one leuca, two furlongs, and ten perches; and in breadth one leuca.

This lordship was afterwards granted from the crown to Robert de Bellemont, earl of Mellent in Normandy, and earl of Leicester in England, and given by him in the reign of Henry I. to the Bene-

dictine abbey De Pratellis (De Preaux) in Normandy, founded by his ancestors.

In the 14th of Edward I. the said abbey claimed the assise, a gallows, and many other liberties, as a member of the manor of Toft-Monks, as enjoyed by the earl Robert, and granted to the abbey; and the abbot was found to hold two knights fees.

In the parliament at Leicester, anno 2d of Henry V. this lordship, with that of Toft, (belonging to Preaux) came to the crown, on the dissolution of the alien priories. Their temporalities in this town were valued at 74s. 1d.

Henry VI. on Feb. 14, anno 19, granted it to the college of St. Mary and St. Nicholas in Cambridge, (now King's college) founded by him; and the said society possesses it at this time, with the patronage of the church.

Robert, son of Corbun, had by the grant of William I. land, &c. of which Giffard, a soc-man of Stigand, was deprived, then valued at 5s. at the survey at 11s.

On the death of Robert, son of Corbun, this came to the crown as an escheat, and was granted by William II. to William de Albini, his butler, ancestor of the earls of Arundel; and on the death of Hugh, the last earl of this family, this part of his inheritance came by a sister and co-heir, in the reign of Henry III. to sir Robert de Tatehale; and Robert lord Tatehale held the 6th part of a fee here, in the 31st of Edward I. from them it came to the Caley and the Cliftons; sir Adam de Clifton was lord in the time of Edward III. and in the 19th of Richard

Richard II. the prior of St. Olave's held it of sir Constantine de Clifton.

Roger Bigot, ancestor to the earls of Norfolk, had a grant of land, &c. which nine free-men of Stigand were deprived; valued at 15s. it was one leuca long, and eight furlongs broad, and Robert de Vaux held it under Roger. A socman of Edric de Laxfield had land, &c. valued at 10s. at the survey at 13s. 4d. This socman put himself under the protection of Alwin de Tetford, in the time of the Conqueror, and was in possession of it when that king gave it to Roger Bigot.

A free-man had in this town one acre and an half, with one borderer, valued at 3d. Roger had a grant of this, and Robert de Vaux held it at the survey under him.

Here also a free-man of king Edward had an interest; Alwi held it in commendation of the king, and was in possession of it (before Roger Bigot) when king William came; this was granted to Bigot, and Turolde held it under him at the survey; valued at 10s. and Stigand had formerly the soc.

All these tenures were inherited by the descendents of this Roger, and by the grant of Roger, earl of Norfolk, who died without issue, came to Edward I. and so to Thomas de Brotherton, his son, earl of Norfolk; then to the lord Seagrave, and to the Mowbrays; and from them to the Howards, dukes of Norfolk.

Ralph, lord Bainsard, had by an exchange, lands, &c. of which a free-man of Stigand was deprived; valued at 2s. and the soc was in Stigand. This

seems to have been held with Bainard's manor of Whetacre.

Here was a preceptory of knights templars, to which Henry III. was a considerable benefactor: and in the 52d of that king, Thomas Rosceline conveyed by fine to friar Roger Fitz-John, master of the templars in England, fifteen acres of land here. In the 14th of Edward I. the master of the templars claimed view of frank-pledge, the assise, &c. of his tenants, as Henry III. had granted to them. In the said year the preceptor set up crosses on the houses here and in Sisland, belonging to him, and their temporalities were valued at 16s.

In the 20th of Edward II. Thomas de St. Omer, sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, gave an account of the late lands of the templars, till he delivered them to Henry de Seagrave, who succeeded him.

The temporalities of the priory of St. Olave's, were 3s. ob. Of Norwich, 18d.

Hatfield, Hathorp, Hatherly, Hatton, so called from some water or river; the Hat or Had, Hadleigh in Suffolk, Haddon in Derbyshire, and Haddenham in Cambridgeshire; whence the name of this town.*

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Mary, and is covered, as the chancel is, with lead; has a round tower with five bells.

In the chancel, on a mural monument—*Carolus Ashby ecclesiæ hujus rector, memoriæ Elizabethæ, filiæ Samuelis Harvy de Wange in com. Essex, generosi, conjugis castissimæ*

* Parkin,

*castissima monumentum hoc amovis ergo dedicat, obiit Apr.
19, 1671, ætat. suæ 28.*

In the middle aisle, a grave-stone—For *John Buckenham, gent. who died September 16, 1712, ætat. 77.*

Also—For *Thomas London, gent. who died in 1666.*

In the reign of Edward I. the rector had a manse with twenty acres of glebe, valued at eighteen marks, and the abbot of Preaux was then patron; the present value is 12l.

In 1402 sir Thomas Erpingham farmed the manor, and presented to the church.—In 1603 the rector returned eighty communicants.

In the church was the chapel of St. John.

In this town the family of Bayspool lived; John Bayspool, gent. in 1634, and captain Thomas Bayspool in 1682.

This populous village lies at the junction of the two great roads from Beccles, six miles, and Norwich, sixteen miles, to Yarmouth, nine miles. The church stands on an eminence, which forms a tongue of land, with the marshes on the north and east, and by a delve or valley on the south.

In the church-yard wall, fronting the road, is a mural monument to the memory of William Salter, who drove the machine between London and Yarmouth many years, with this inscription.

Here lies Will. Salter, honest man!
Deny it, envy, if you can;

True

True to his bus'ness and his trust,
 Always punctual, always just :
 His horses, cou'd they speak, would tell
 They lov'd their good old master well.
 His up-hill work is chiefly done,
 His stage is ended, race is run ;
 One journey is remaining still,
 To climb up Sion's holy hill ;
 And now his faults are all forgiv'n,
 Elija like, drives up to heav'n,
 Takes the reward of all his pains,
 And leaves to other hands the reins.

In 1739, August 29, the church of Haddiscoe was consolidated with Toft Monks; and in 1751 the prebost and fellows of king's college, Cambridge, presented the Rev. John Lodington to this united rectory.

Between this town and the river Waveney is a level of marshes nearly two miles broad. The turn-pike road passes over the river at St. Olave's, vulgarly called St. Tooley's Bridge. In the reign of Henry IV. the Ferry here was in the king's gift, and was granted to sir George Felbrigg for life, anno Reg. 1.

The priory of St. Olave's stood on the Suffolk side of the bridge in Lothingland; and the bridge and causeway was made at the sole expence of sir James Hobart, attorney-general to Henry VII.

HALES, or LODDON-HALES, wrote Hals in Doomsday-book, is by some accounted to be in Loddon hundred.

BIGOT'S MANOR. There were at the survey several lordships in this town; Roger Bigot, ancestor to the earls of Norfolk, had a grant of one, which Alestan (a thane of king Harold) was deprived of; valued at 20s. but at the survey at 40s. This Alestan put himself under the commendation of Alwin de Tetford, in the reign of William I. and was seised of it at the time when the Conqueror gave it to Roger Bigot; but the hundred never saw any writ or livery whereby it was granted to Alwin. All Hales was fifteen furlongs long, and twelve perches and six furlongs broad.

This lordship extended into Loddon, and was held by the Bigots, earls of Norfolk, and by the grant of Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, who died without issue, it came to Edward I. and was given by Edward II. to his brother, Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, and so came to the lord Seagrave, the Mowbrays, and the Howards, dukes of Norfolk.

On the attainder of Thomas, duke of Norfolk, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, it was in the crown, and James I. anno 1, bestowed it on Thomas, lord Howard, of Walden, and Henry Howard, afterwards earl of Northampton, from whom it passed to Thomas Howard, earl of Surry, who in the 21st of the said king, April 1, had license to alien it to Anthony Hobart, esq. and his heirs; Anthony conveyed it in the same year to James Hobart, his son and heir, who, by deed, dated September 12, in the 12th of Charles I. sold it to Henry Humberstone, esq. son of William Humberstone of Loddon,

Henry was father of William Humberstone, esq. who married Mildred, daughter of Charles Waldegrave, esq. of Stanninghall in Taverham hundred,
who

who conveyed this manor to Francis Gardiner, esq. mayor of Norwich in 1685, and burgefs in parliament for that city in 1695; Stephen Gardiner, esq. his fon, was recorder of Norwich, and died in 1727.

Ralph, lord Baynard, was rewarded with a lordship, of which Toke, a free-man (of Stigand, the archbishop of Camerbury) of French extraction, was deprived; the whole valued at 17s. but at the survey at 30s.

A family who took their name from this town, was early enfeoffed of it, and held it under the lord Baynard. Sir Roger de Hales, by deed without date, confirmed the exchange of lands (between two persons) that were held of his fee in Hales, which shews that it was the custom for lords of manors to confirm the purchases before the statute of *Quia Emptores*, &c. Sir John de Hales was living in the 20th of Edward III. and by Catherine (after married to Roger Welleſham) was father of John de Hales, who died without issue in the 43d of Edward III. and held this lordship of the barony of Fitz Walter.

In the 17th of Richard II. William, son of Edmund de Redesham, of Kirby Cane, conveyed by fine to sir Robert de Willoughby, sir Miles Stapleton, John, son of sir John de Norwich, &c. the manor of Hales-Hall in Loddon, and rent, &c. in Hales, Loddon, Kirkby, with the advowſon of Hales-Hall chapel, purchased by John de Norwich in reversion; sir George Felbrigg, of Tottington, holding two parts of the manor and lands, in right of his wife.

Sir Simon Felbrigg in the 12th of Henry IV. recovered the manor of Hales-Hall by writ of Novel Diſſeiſin, against John Hotot, and it was after settled
on

on his two feoffees, sir John Howard, and sir John de Ingoldesthorpe, &c.

In the 19th of Henry VI. Nicholas Waleys, and John Pewk, were querents in a fine, and Henry Walpole, deforciant of 10l. rent per ann. in Loddon-Hales manor, conveyed to Pewk; and in the 30th of that king, Hugh Croke, vicar of Hale, was a trustee of Thomas Cleymons, esq. deceased, late lord.

After this it was possessed by James Hobart, attorney general, and of the privy council to Henry VII. of whom, and his ancestors, we refer to Plumstead Parva, in Blofield hundred. His benefactions and good works, testify his charity and generosity; he resided in his manor-house here, which he built for the most part (and died here) with the elegant parish church of the Holy Trinity, at Loddon; also a fair bridge over the Waveney river, between Norfolk and Suffolk, called St. Olave's Bridge, with a good causeway to it; contributed to the rebuilding of the council chamber in the Guild-hall of the city of Norwich, and to the noble arched stone roof of the cathedral church of Norwich. Sir Walter Hobart was his son and heir, and lord of this manor, sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in the 1st of Henry VIII. in the 20th of that king he settled this lordship, with that of Chedgrave, Lilleford's, and Tilney in Norfolk, and others in Suffolk, on sir Walter Hobart, his son and heir.

James Hobart, esq. of Hales-Hall, sold it in the 12th of Charles I. to Henry Humberstone, esq. with Bigot's manor, whose son William, is said to have conveyed part of it to Francis Gardiner, esq. and part to the lady Dionysia Williamson, relict of sir Thomas Williamson,

Williamson, baronet, of Markham Magna in Nottinghamshire, daughter and heir of William Hales, esq. who was lady of this manor of Hales-Hall in 1666, and resided here; she gave 4000*l.* to the rebuilding the church of St. Dunstan in the East, of London; to the rebuilding of St. Paul's cathedral, 2000*l.* and was a benefactress to the rebuilding of the church of St. Mary Le Bow, in London, giving 2000*l.* and at her death left Hales-Hall to John Hopkins, esq. her nephew, who was lord in 1697, with the impropriated rectory of Loddon.

The abbot of St. Edmund's Bury had a lordship, which Frodo held of them at the survey, valued with Loddon.—Frodo also held of the abbot one acre, of which two free-men were deprived, valued at 4*d.*

Godric, the king's steward, held one acre and a half, out of which a free-man was ejected; this was granted to Godric on the forfeiture of Ralph, earl of Norfolk, who had a moiety (as lord) of this free-man.

The temporalities of St. Olave's were 8*d.* and of Langley abbey 24*s.*

The church of Hales was a rectory, but granted in the 4th of Henry I. by Ralph de Chedgrave to the prior of St. Olave's, probably founder of that priory; and a vicar was appointed on its appropriation to that convent. It was dedicated to St. Margaret, and it appears by the register of Langley abbey, that the prior and convent of St. Olave's at Herringfleet in Suffolk, were rectors of Hale, and had the tithe of 235 acres of land in Hale parish, belonging to Langley abbey, in exchange for 235 acres

acres of land in Loddon and Heckingham, belonging to the priory of St. Olave's.

In the reign of Edward I. the rectory was valued at eleven marks, and the vicarage at 40s. The vicar had then a manse with thirty acres of land, and the patronage was in the prior of St. Olave's.

In 1503 we find it served by a stipendiary curate for 5l. per ann. and he then returned forty-five communicants, John Hill being the impropriator; and in 1742 the heirs of Mr. Peter Lawes. Hales is at this time (1780) a curacy.

Here also was a chapel at Hales Hall, belonging to the manor of the family of de Hales, dedicated to St. Andrew; this, with the hall, stood in the parish of Loddon, and in 1287 it is said to stand in the manor of Wrantislaugh, belonging to sir Roger de Hales, in Loddon parish, and leave was then granted to him that he might institute the chaplains.

Alexander de Hales, styled Doctor Irrefragabilis, who died in 1245, was born here.

Mr. Parkin says, Hales, Halesworth, Halesstead, Alesham and Aylesford, is so called as being near to some river or water.

HECKINGHAM, wrote so in Doomsday-book, and also Hethingham, and Ekingham. Godric, the Conqueror's steward, had the grant of the principal lordship in this town, held by Hagan, under Stigand, the archbishop, in the reign of the Confessor, with a church, endowed with eight acres. Roger Bigot claimed thirty acres of land out of this lordship, belonging to Alestan's manor in Hales (which Roger had

had the grant of.) Seventeen free-men had also a carucate, with another that was held by commendation only, and four carucates of meadow. Ralph, earl of Norfolk, added to this lordship in the time of William I. eight free-men, and there were six free-men under them. In king Edward's time the whole was valued at 20s. at the survey at 60s. and what the free-men held, at 30s. The town was one leuca long, and eight furlongs wide.

LANGLEY ABBEY MANOR. On the death of Godric it seems to have come again to the crown, and was granted to the earl Warren, and a family that took their name from the town was enfeoffed of it, and held it of the earl Warren.

In the 10th of Richard I. William de Rochage, who took his name from an hamlet in this town, surrendered by fine to Baldwin Adestan de Heckingham, fifteen acres of land; and in the 5th of king John, Alan de Heckingham was lord, and Herbert de Rochage conveyed lands to him by fine. It appears from the register of Langley abbey, that Alan gave to Simon de Blaveney, with Muriel his daughter, in marriage, this lordship, and they sold to sir Roger de Thurkelby (an itinerant judge) fifty acres, part of it, with the services of several tenants in this town, Hales, Norton, &c. and sir Roger had a grant of free-warrant in the 29th of Henry III. Alan also sold to sir William Rosceline, and Lætitia his wife, the advowson of this church; this Lætitia, in her widowhood, gave it to Langley abbey; she after married sir Roger de Thurkelby; and in 1289, from an extent then made of the manor of Heckingham, which the abbot held of the gift of sir Roger, with the appropriate rectory and advowson, and the tithe of wheat was then esteemed, one year with another, at ten combs, each comb valued at 2s. Messing,
twenty

twenty comb, at 18d. per comb. Pease, ten comb, at 18d. per comb. Oats, two comb, at 12d. per comb. Six score comb of barley, at 18d. per comb. The manor-house contained eleven acres, with the out ditches, mote, &c. Apples in the orchard, valued at 6s. 8d. per ann. the mill, 9s. there was a great pond of three acres, coney-garth and broomyard, liberty of a free bull and boar in summer, with pleas and perquisites of court, reliefs, wards, &c. lands in several fields, &c.

The abbot's temporals in 1428 were valued at 7l. 18s. 4d. ob.

At the dissolution it was, August 16, in the 32d of Henry VIII. granted to Thomas Godsalve, esq.

Here was a controversy, without date, between the abbot, &c. of Langley, rectors of this church, and Ralph de Butiler, rector of Raveningham, about tithes; and it was agreed that Ralph and his successors should have the the tithe of twelve acres and a half in Raveningham, and the abbot of twelve acres here, butted, &c.—Langley Regr. fol. 68.—Ralph was living in 1290.

Lands, &c. were also granted to the abbey of Langley by Robert de Vernon, sir Roger de Hales, Ralph de Earlham, &c.

In the 42d of Edward III. William Bergh died, and had a part of a fee;

Joan Ward died possessed of a lordship, as by her will in 1464.

Thomas Denny was lord of a manor in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and had license, December 1, in the 6th of James I. to alien it to Thomas Fiske, who in the 14th of Charles I. conveyed it to William Coppin, gent.

Roger Bigot had the grant of twenty-six acres, &c. which a free-man possessed in the time of the Confessor; Turolde held this of Roger, and it was valued at 16d.

Roger had also thirty acres of land given him, which Bondo, a free-man, was deprived of, belonging to Ulchetell's fee, who had by commendation a moiety of him in the reign of king Edward, and in right of his wife, the whole commendation; Godric, the Conqueror's steward, claimed him on the forfeiture of Ralph, earl of Norfolk, and the hundred witnesses that he performed services to Godric, but know not by what right; there belonged to it also a carucate and two acres of meadow, valued in the whole at 4s.

The families of de Loddon and de Hales seem to have some interest here. In the 7th of Edward I. John de Gernemuth, or Yarmouth, had free-warren here, in Norton and Loddon. In the 12th of that king, William, son of sir John de Loddon, confirmed to Thomas Wyth, of Yarmouth, a marsh and a fencary, called Lam-Holme, after the decease of the lady Alice de Quitwell, widow of sir John, his father.

In the 9th of Edward II. the abbot of Langley and Robert de Hales, were returned to be lords of this town.

Roger

Roger Bigot had another small fee held of him at the survey by Robert de Vaux, out of which a free-man of Stigand, the archbishop, was ejected, valued at 4s.

The church was a rectory, and is dedicated to St. Gregory; in the 6th of Henry III. a fine was levied before Martin de Pateshull, &c. the king's Justices, between William, son of Roscelyne, and Lecia his wife, petents, and Alan de Heckingham, deforciant, of the advowson of this church, purchased by them and the heirs of Lecia, who afterwards gave it by deed without date to the abbey of Langley. Sir Thomas, her son, released all his right herein, in the 54th of that king, as did William, son of Adam de Heckingham, in the 24th of Henry III. to the said convent, and they covenanted to receive him and his heirs into all prayers and benefactions to be made in that abbey; it was after appropriated to that abbey, and a vicarage settled.

At the dissolution of the abbey, the rectory, and patronage of the vicarage came to the crown; and in 1603 the church was served by a stipendiary curate, who returned 59 communicants.

On February 19, in the 16th of Elizabeth, the rectory was granted to Bernard Gylpin and Christopher Denton, with the rectory of Thwaite.

Charles Rigges was instituted vicar in 1627, presented by the king, but in 1748 it was served by a stipendiary curate, nominated by the heirs of Mr. Peter Lawes.

The church has a nave, and a south aisle, with a chancel antique, turned round at the east end, and a round tower with two bells.

In the nave a grave-stone—*To John Crowe, gent. who died in 1663.*

In the south aisle, one—*To William Mingay, gent. who died in 1713*—with his arms.

In a window of the said aisle, the arms of Erpingham—Clifton impaling Erpingham—also impaling Clifton.

Heck, says Mr. Parkin, the *Water Etymologist*, seems to be the name of a rivulet—Heckford in Hampshire, and in Norfolk; Heckmondwyke in Yorkshire; Heckington in Lincolnshire, &c.

A house of industry for the hundreds of Loddon and Clavering has been lately erected in this parish, of which we hope, to be enabled to give some account in the appendix to this hundred.

The Rev. Mr. Colman was presented to the curacy of Heckingham by the Crown.

HOWE, or Hoo, wrote in Doomsday-book Hou. This village, now accounted part of the hundred of Clavering, was part of the hundred of Henstead at the grand survey, where we find this account of it. Alnoht, a free-man of archbishop Stigand, was lord in king Edward's reign, and on his deprivation the Conqueror seized on it, and Godric, his steward, took care of it for him: in Alnoht's time it was valued at 40s. and at the survey at 60s. was six furlongs long, and four broad.

It remained in the Crown till William II. gave it to William de Albini, his butler, ancestor of the earls of Arundel.

A family

A family took their name from this town (being lords of it) according to the custom of former ages, and was enfeoffed thereof by William de Albini.

In the 9th of king John Roger de Howe enjoyed it, and then paid ten marks for the king's favour, and his land that was seized for beating the king's servants.

In the 20th of Edward II. Miles de Howe grants his interest herein to Edward Rose, of Yarmouth, William March, of Stanhowe, and Walter de Bintre, with the reversion of what Nicholas Hovell, and Joan his mother, held in jointure for life; and soon after, the said Edward, William, and Walter, grant it to sir Walter de Norwich: sir Walter is said, in the 3d of Edward III. to hold it by suit of court of the manor of Wymondham, then valued at 6l. 10s. per annum.

Sir John de Norwich, son and heir of sir Walter, was lord and patron in the 4th of Edward III.

Sir John de Norwich in the 31st of Edward III. had a charter of free-warren, and in the 47th of that king, conveyed it to his seoffees, sir John de Plays, &c. to settle it on his college of Mettingham in Suffolk; and in the 49th was settled by the lady Catherine de Brews, cousin and heir of sir John, and the said trustees accordingly.

On the 14th of April, in the 33d of Henry VIII. the king granted this manor belonging to Mettingham college, to sir Anthony Denny, one of his privy council, who died possessed of it in the 3d of Edward VI. also lord of Mettingham-castle, the manors of Ilke-

teshale, Bramford, Sibeton, Wenhaston, in Suffolk, &c. In this family it remained.

BURGH-ABBAY MANOR. Another lordship in this town belonged to the abbey of Bury, and was part of the great manor of Loddon, which extended here. Baldwin, abbot of Bury, who lived in the reign of the Conqueror, enfeoffed Frodo, his brother, of it, &c. and Gosceline de Lodne, or Loddon, held it under Frodo. In this family it continued till Gosceline de Lodne, a descendent of the aforesaid Gosceline, dying without issue, his inheritance was divided among his five sisters and coheirs, and this lordship, on a division, came to Emma, the fourth sister and coheir, who married Ralph de Howe. Sir John de Howe in the 50th of Henry III. granted by fine to Magdalen, prioress of Carrowe by Norwich, the advowson of a moiety of the church of St. Mary in this town, and the prioress was patron in the reign of Edward I.

Sir Richard de Boyland, the judge, purchased of — de Howe in the 14th of Edward I. this manor, with lands, &c. in Shottisham and Framlingham, and John de Boyland held it in the 9th of Edward II. and in the 4th of Henry IV. the abbot of Bury had a quarter of a fee, called Boyland's. Sir William de Norwich seems to be lord, and so was united to the other manor, and came to the Dennys.

The church of Howe is dedicated to St. Mary, and formerly consisted of two medietyes, or rectories; one belonged to the manor of Howe, of the Arundel fee, the other to Bury abbey fee.

In the reign of Edward I. sir Ralph de Howe was patron, when this mediety was taxed at six marks
and

and a half, and the rector had a manse with thirty acres of land.

After this, Miles Howe, esq. son of sir Ralph, was lord and patron, and granted it to sir Walter de Norwich in the reign of Edward III.

In 1603 the rector returned sixty-three communicants, and the patronage was in John Denny, esq.

In 1728 lady Elizabeth Hastings presented. The present value is 13l. 17s. 4d. and is discharged.

The church is a single pile and a chancel, both covered with tiles, and has a round tower with one bell.

In 1405 the two mediocities of Howe were consolidated, and they with the church of Poringland Parva, May 6, 1734. In 1767 the Rev. George Robert Wadsworth was presented by the right honourable Francis Hastings, earl of Huntingdon, F. R. S. and one of his majesty's most honourable privy council.

This town, with Bergh Apton and Brooke, are separated from the other parishes in Clavering, by the hundred of Loddon.

Howe, or Hoe, signifies a rising ground, or a hill, as Houghton, Hougham, Greenhowe, &c.

KIRBY CANE, or KIRKEBY KAM, wrote in Doomsday-book Kercheby. The principal manor in this town was in the abbey of St. Edmund of Bury, to which it was given by Algiva, queen of England, mother of Edward the Confessor. It is to be observed here, that Emma is by historians generally

rally called the king's mother, who first married Etheldred, king of England, by whom she had king Edward, and afterwards married Canute, king of England, &c. the Saxon chronicle calls her Ælgiva Ymma, and it is probable that she gave it about the year 1020, when king Canute, her lord, was a great benefactor to that abbey.

The said abbey held it at the grand survey, and Rafrid of the abbot; it had a church endowed with twenty acres in free alms, and two parts of a church endowed with fourteen acres. The whole valued at 40s. but at the survey at 6l. and the twenty acres of the church at 20d. it was nine furlongs long, and five broad.

Rafrid was succeeded by Godbold de Kirkebia, his son, to whom Anselm, abbot of St. Edmund's Bury, granted this lordship with all its appurtenances, and to his heirs, to be held by one fee, without date, and this grant was confirmed by the letters patent of Henry I.

“ Henricus Rex Anglie, &c. Episco. Norwic. Sciatis ME concessisse Godeboldo de Churchebey terram de Chirebeiam cum foca, et-foca, &c. Test: A. Linc. Episco. Galfrido Cancell. Auberio de Vere, Robto. filio Walteri, Gilb. de Blund, &c.”

It appears that this king's grant was in the singular number *Me concessisse*, and not *Nos*.

William, son of Godbold, held it in the reign of king Stephen. In the 8th of Richard I. Alexander, his brother, left a daughter and heir, Mary, married first to Gilbert de Norfolk, and after to Walter de Cam; Robert de Norfolk, her son, released to her,
and

and Walter her husband, in the 3d of Henry III. all his right in his land here, by fine.

After this the lordship seems to have been divided, and in the 52d of Henry III. Richard de Thwaite, and William de Stockton, granted by fine their interest in the advowson of this church, to Richard de Cadomo, or de Cam, or Cane, who gave that name (as lord) to this town.

Walter de Cam in the reign of king John, let to Thomas de Longville, a mill in this town, also a lordship here, as appears from the deed, without date.

Sir Richard de Cam was his son, and inherited this lordship, who lived in the 52d of Henry III. and married Maud, sister of Adam de Mendham, and died about the year 1286.

Walter de Cam, his son and heir, succeeded, was lord in 1287; and in the 31st of Edward I. did homage to the abbot of Bury. This Walter in the 15th of Edward II. sold this manor to Roger Gavel, a burgeis of Great Yarmouth; in the following year, Richard, the second son of Walter de Cam, released to Roger all his right; and in the 19th, reciting, That whereas the said Roger and his wife, daughter of the late de Cam, were to pay to him an annuity of 20s. and to provide him a new robe every winter, he had released the same to them.

One John de Cam was summoned to Parliament in the 28th and 32d, &c. of Edward II. and was of the king's council.

Edmund

Edmund Gavel was lord of Kirkby in the 16th of Edward III. in the 17th of that king he leased the manor of To-How's marsh in Thurgarton, to Anfelm de Fordel, paying him 5l. per ann. and finding him and Mary his wife, diet at his table, &c. for two years. In the next year he was in rebellion against the king, riding about Suffolk with banners displayed, imprisoning and committing many murders, for which he was indicted before William de Shareshull, &c. the king's justices, and after had a pardon under the broad seal, dated June 29, in the said year.

Nicholas Gavel was his son and heir, in the 25th of the said king: he married Catherine, daughter and heir of ——— Myniot, and was lord of Myniot's manor in Kirkstead, in her right.

Robert Gavel was his son: he died in 1439, and was buried in the chapel of St. Mary, on the north side of the chancel of this church.

Thomas succeeded his father Robert, was lord of this manor and of Kirkstead: he died in 1461, and was also buried at the door of the chapel of St. Mary in this church.

Henry Gavel, gent. inherited this lordship and Ellingham in 1474, and was buried in the chapel aforesaid.

Bartholomew, son and heir of Henry, was father of Thomas Gavel, the last heir male of this family, and lord in the 12th of Henry VII. by Ann, his wife, daughter of Henry Everard, esq. of Linstead in Suffolk, he left four daughters and coheirs.

This

This Thomas died in 1522, and was also buried in the church of Kirby. To Thomasine, his eldest daughter, he gave this lordship, who brought it by marriage to Leonard Copledike, esq. second son of sir John Copledike, of Frampton in Lincolnshire, and of Horham in Suffolk. On the death of this Leonard (by whom she had a son and heir, John) she re-married Edward Calthorpe, esq. in 1525; and in the 22d of Henry VIII. this lordship and advowson, with messuages, &c. in this town, Ellingham, Stockton, Geldestone, and Hale, were settled on the said Edward and Thomasine, for their lives; remainder to John Copledike, son of the said Thomasine, and his heirs: she died in 1557.

Edward was son of Edward Calthorpe, esq. of Ludham; in the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, "he demised to John Copledike, esq. the scite of this manor, which he held for life by the courtesy of England, after the decease of Thomasine, his wife, John paying to him 20l. per ann. In the hall of the said house Edward was also to have meat and drink for himself and one servant, as often as he shall reside there; and two chambers, one for his own, the other for his servant's lodging; with convenient fewel; the keeping of three geldings or mares, in summer time at grals, in the winter in the stable, with hay, &c. and Edward to pay to John 10l. per ann." In 1557 he died, and was buried by his wife in the chancel of this church.

John Copledike, esq. was lord in the 6th of Elizabeth, and held it in capite of the castle of Norwich; he married, first, Ellen, daughter and heir of John Wodehouse, esq. and his second wife was Maud, daughter of John Highfield, esq. of Calais, who died without issue; by his first wife he left a daughter
and

and sole heir, Thomasine, who married Humphrey Copledike, esq. of Hetherfet, 5th son of sir John Copledike ; John died possessed of it, held of that queen, by knight's service.

Humphrey had several children, but he sold this lordship to Thomas Catelyne, esq. of Lakenham by Norwich.

Richard Catelyne, esq. was sheriff of Norwich in 1531, and alderman of that city ; he died in 1556.

Richard Catelyne, esq. his fifth son ; in the 4th of Edward VI. he was autumn reader of Lincoln's Inn, serjeant at law May 19, 1552 ; steward of the city of Norwich, and king and queen's serjeant October 16, 1555 ; deputy lieutenant and justice of the peace, and one of the commissioners to try the rebels in the reign of queen Mary ; he died before his father, in August, 1556, and was buried in the chancel of Honingham church ; was lord of Honingham-hall, and of Walsoken-Popenhowe in Norfolk.

Richard Catelyne, esq. first son of the serjeant, was lord of Wolverston hall in Suffolk, and died March 11, in the 43d of Elizabeth, and was father of Philip.

Philip was father of Richard, who had Philip his son, who died unmarried.

Thomas Catelyne, esq. second son of the serjeant, married Judith, daughter of Edward Ellington, of Thoydon-Bois in Essex, was lord of Wingfield-hall in Suffolk ; in 1604 was lord of Hastings-hall and Whitfoot-hall in Irmingland, and he purchased of
Humphrey

Humphrey Copledike this lordship of Kirby Cane. He died in 1636.

Richard Catelnye, esq. son of Thomas, married, first, Mary, daughter of sir Robert Houghton, one of the judges of the King's-Bench; she died without issue: his second wife was Dorothy, daughter of sir Henry Nevill, of Billingbere in Berkshire, by whom she had a son and heir, sir Nevill, and Richard who died without issue; also four daughters.

Sir Nevill Catelnye was knighted by Charles II. at Somerset-house, London, in 1662, lord of this town and Wingfield castle in Suffolk: he married, first, Dorothy, daughter of sir Thomas Bedingsfield, of Darsham in Suffolk; and his second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Houghton, of Ranworth, esq. and had children by both, who died young: his third wife was Mary, daughter of sir William Blois, bart. of Cockfield-hall in Yoxford, Suffolk, and of Grundesburgh: Sir Nevill was buried in this church in July 1702.

She survived sir Nevill, and married sir Charles Turner, of Warham in Norfolk, and were both living here in 1720; and sir Charles was lord and patron in 1740.

Rafrid, as has been observed, held at the survey this lordship of the abbot of Bury by one fee, and so did Godbold de Kirby, and Alexander his son; but after, this fee was divided and held by three different families; the family of de Cam held one-third part; the Bigots, earls of Norfolk, had also an interest in another third part, which came to the Bigots, lords of Stockton.

In

In the 14th of Edward I. sir John Bigot, lord of Stockton, claimed view of frank-pledge, affise, free warren, as his ancestors had held of the abbot of Bury: this came to the Garneys, de la Poles, &c. with Stockton.

Another third part was in Richard de Thwayte, who, with William de Stockton, granted by fine, in the 52d of Henry III. their interest in the advowson of this church to Richard de Cam. William de la Grene, of Kirby, confirmed to sir Richard de Cam, in the 6th of Edward I. for eight marks, all his land in this town, Stockton, Hales, &c. with the services, homages, rents, &c. except the capital messuage in Kirby. This third part was thus united, and so came to Gavel's manor, &c. as above.

Ralph, lord Baynard, was lord of a manor in this town. When Doomfday-book was made, Ulmar, a free-man of king Edward, held it with 30 acres of land: Robert, son of Corbun, laid claim to this land, and had livery. There were also eight free-men belonging to the lord's fold, and under his protection, whose interest was valued at the survey at 40s. It came to Baynard by an exchange.

By the forfeiture of the lord Baynard, this came to the lords Fitz-Walter, and was called Loot's, or Lowt's fee, being held by John Loot of the lord Fitz-Walter, in the 3d of Henry III. Roger de Hales had an interest herein about the same time, and John de Hales in the 2d year of Edward III. This was soon after united to the above-mentioned manors.

About 1266, William de Wendling had a messuage, &c. here, in Ravensingham, &c. which Philip
Loot

Loot had conveyed to him, and William gave them to the canon of Langley, and were confirmed by Robert lord Fitz-Walter. Henry Walpole held this Loot's fee, and owed to the abbot of Langley in the 12th of Henry VI. 10l. 4s. 2d. arrears of rent, for the land and tenements here, and in Stockton, formerly George Felbrigg's.

Eustace, earl of Boulogne in France, had also a lordship, of which Osmund, a thane of archbishop Stigand was deprived; Ralph de Beaufoe had an interest in it after Osmund, but at the survey Warine held it under Eustace.

In king Edward's time there were other lands, &c. valued at 15s.

Warine was ancestor of the family of de Meynwarine of Cheshire.

The temporalities of Bury abbey here, in 1428, were valued at 11l. os. 6d. of the prioress of Campsey 3s. 5d. ob.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to All Saints, and the patronage belonged to the abbot of Bury's manor.

In the 14th of Henry III. Walter de Cam, Roger de Thwayte, and Roger de Stockton, were parceners in the advowson of this church, of the inheritance which was Alexander de Kirkeby's, therefore they all presented at this time, which proves that they had it by inheritance.

In 1220, there was a composition between the monks of St. Ildevert, of Gournay in France, and
the

the dean of Flegg hundred, of the tithe of some sheaves of corn, out of the abbot's manor, held by fir R. de Cam.

In the 52d of Henry III. Richard de Thwaite and William de Stockton granted, by fine, the advowson to Richard de Cam.

The rector in the reign of Edward I. had a house and a carucate of land, the value was 15 marks.

The Rev. John Watfon, rector here, wrote a book in octavo, called *Memoirs of the Stuarts*; printed at London in 1689, after his death in 1662. He was ejected during the Usurpation.

In 1733, fir Charles Turner, knt. presented.

In the chancel by the communion table are several grave-stones. one, " In memory of Mary, daughter
" of fir Robert Houghton, the first wife of Richard
" Catelene, of Kirby Cane, esq. by whom she had
" two sons and two daughters; Thomas, the eldest,
" a man of great hopes; at 21 was captain of a
" troop of horse for king Charles I. and slain by the
" rebels at the 2d Newbury fight, 1644.—Mary, the
" eldest daughter, married Edward Ward, of Bix-
" ley in Norfolk, esq. and died without issue.—Ro-
" bert and Judith died young.—She died in 1633,
" in the 45th year of her age."

Another, *In memory of Judith, daughter of Edward Errington, of Theydon-Boys in Essex, Esq; and wife of Thomas Catelene, Esq; who died in 1615.*

Thomas Catelene, Esq; son of Richard Catelene, of Honingham, Serjeant at Law to king Philip and queen Mary.

Mary. He had Richard Catelyne, of Kirby Cane, Esq; and Thomas Catelyne, of Blofield, Gent. and he died in 1636.

Here are also tomb-stones to several of the family of Catelyne.

Against the north wall of the chancel was erected a little tomb of free-stone, which had an epitaph many years past, through time obliterated; it was, *In memory of John Copledike, Esq; who was here buried, April 12, 1598.* On the west end of this tomb were the arms of Gavell, with an impalement now obscure. On the body of the tomb, the single shield of Copledike; also Copledike, with quarterings, Gavell, Rocheley, Harrington, Friskeny, impaling Wodehouse of Kimberley; also Copledike impaling Hayfield.

“ Beatam expectans resurrectionem, sub hoc mar-
 “ more obdormit Gulielmus Randall. A. M. hujus
 “ ecclesiæ quondam rector, et benefactor. Probitate
 “ et amicitia clarus, et mire constans, sinceræ et non
 “ fucatæ pietatis exemplar. Maïldam filiam Johs.
 “ Hawys, M. D. duxit, e qua unicam filiam nomine
 “ Mariam reliquit, obt. 13 cal. Apr. ætat. 49, anno
 “ salutis 1699.”

Sir Nevill Catelyne is buried in a vault here, which he built several years before his death, in July 1702; also Mrs. Elizabeth Catelyne, his daughter, was here interred in 1685, as was Mrs. Philippa Culpepper in 1719.

In 1559, Thomas Hare, gent. was buried here, and in 1557, Mrs. Thomasine Calthorpe. Edmund, son of Edward Calthorpe, esq. in 1567. Mrs. Maud
 F Copledike,

Copledike, wife of John Copledike, esq. in 1589.—
In 1286, sir Richard de Cam was here buried.

The present value is 10l. and pays first fruits and tenths.

In 1733, the Rev. Samuel Baker was presented to this rectory by the late sir Charles Turner, bart. of Warham.

It is generally said that towns beginning with Kirk signify that their site is by some church; but it rather is a compound word, and wrote, as in Doomsday, Ker, Che, or Ke. Kirkstead is wrote Ker-chefs-flead, Ches, or Che, signifies always water, and Ker is the same as Car; thus Carbroke is wrote Cherbroc, and sets forth a clear water, as Kercheby does a dwelling by clear water.*

KIRKSTEAD. See in Langhall, Loddon hundred.

NORTON-SUBCOURSE, or SOUPECORS. A free-man who was under the protection of the abbot of Bury, and had 30 acres of land, &c. and nine free-men held under him 20 acres. At the survey Goscelin possessed it as a moiety of a carucate, valued at 5s. The soc of these nine free-men was in the king and the earl of Norfolk. Here was a church endowed with 20 acres of free land, also a free-man in king Edward's time, under protection, valued at 12d.

Goscelin abovementioned was also lord of Loddon, and assumed his name from that town. The last of this family of de Loddon dying without issue male,
his

* Parkin.

his inheritance came to his three sisters and co-heirs; Amicia, one of them, marrying William de Beauchamp, had an interest herein, and his descendent, John de Beauchamp, of Fishyde, granted in the 7th of Edward II. to Simon de Hederfet, the advowson of this church.

Goscelin de Lodnes, or Loddon, as the register of Bury testifies, was enfeoffed of one carucate of land, &c. by the abbot, in the reign of the Conqueror; and in the 8th of Richard I. a fine was levied between the abbot of Bury, and Ernald de Charnels, of a manor in Norton-Subcourse, which he then acknowledged to hold of the abbot, with those of Ellingham, Quiddenham and Thurton, by one fee, and castle-guard to Norwich.

In the 20th of Henry III. Roger de Hales, Ralph de Howe, Edward Charnels, and the lady Riveshale, held here, in Loddon, Hales, &c. three quarters of a fee.

In the reign of Edward I. sir Roger de Hales, as one of Goscelin de Loddon's heirs, had an interest in it, and was patron of a moiety of the church. In the 25th of that king, sir John de Beauchamp, and Roger de Hales, levied a fine of the advowson of the church, and agreed for them and their heirs to present by turns.

Godric had the grant of a small fee, of which three free-men of the abbey of St. Bennet of Holme were deprived, valued at 5s. On Godric's death it came as an escheat to the crown, and was granted, with the manor of Heckingham, of which it was a part, to the earl Warren; and sir Roger de Thurkelby,

kelby, a judge, gave it in the reign of Henry III. to Langley abbey.

In 1428, the temporalities of this convent were valued at 13s. 4d.

On the dissolution it was granted to Thomas Godfolve, esq.

Godric had also the grant of sixteen acres of land, of which a free-woman was dispossessed. This is placed in the hundred of Loddon, as belonging to Hellington manor.

Robert Grenon had twelve acres of land, as part of the demean lands belonging to his manor of Loddon, which Osbert held of him: this was the manor of Bacon in Loddon.

Roger Bigot, ancestor of the earls of Norfolk, had the grant of eight acres, out of which Ulketel, a free-woman, was ejected, valued at 8d. this is placed in Loddon hundred: he also had 30 acres, of which Ulchetel, a free-man, was deprived, and two tenants held it at the survey of the fee of Ulchetel.

The whole town was one leuca long, and half a one broad.

John de Gernemuth, or Yarmouth, in the 7th of Edward I. had a grant of free-warren in this town and in Heckingham; and in the 2d year of Edward II. a fine was levied between Roger de Hales, &c. querents, and Roger Grys, deforciant, of messuages, land, &c. here and in Hellington.

Ralph

Ralph de Beaufoe had at the survey what two free-men, under the protection of archbishop Stigand, were deprived of, valued at 2s. This was part of Beaufoe's manor of Aldby, and held by the Roscelynes.

Ralph, lord Baynard, had the grant of 30 acres, possessed before the conquest by a free-man, valued at 10s. This was part of Baynard's manor of Kirby.

Besides the different fees above-mentioned, the Conqueror had in this town, at the survey, 30 acres of land, &c. which belonged to a free-man of the abbot of St. Bennet at Holme, valued at 4s. and Goscelin de Norwich held it of the king, but now was independent of any lord.

The temporalities of St. Olave's priory were 6d. of Campsey priory. 18d.

The abbot of St. Bennet's manor of Reedham extended into this town, and in the 3d year of Henry III. there was an agreement made between Stephen de Reedham and the abbot, whereby Stephen was to hold the abbot's land here in Norton by half a mark rent per ann. and in the 11th of Edward I. the abbot granted to sir Bartholomew de Reedham, that if the manor of Reedham should be recovered of John de Ingham, and the manor of Norton of sir Thomas de Roscelyne, that then the abbot should give back to sir Bartholomew the deeds which he gave to the abbot; and by another deed, sir Bartholomew quit-claimed to the abbot the homage of sir Thomas Roscelyne, for the manor of Norton; dated anno 11 Edward I.

This lordship came from the Reedhams to the Berneys, with the town of Reedham, and so continued till fold, about the year 1716, to sir James Edwards.

It was valued in 1428 at 6s. 8d. and in the reign of Philip and Mary, there was a rent issuing out of it of 4s. 8d. then belonging to the bishop of Norwich, and formerly to the sacrist of St. Bennet.

The cellarer of Norwich had also certain rents here, in the time of Henry VI. by an old grant of the Beaufoes.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and was a rectory. In the 52d of Henry III. a moiety of the advowson was granted by Maud, widow of Roger de Hales, to Roger de Hales, with lands in Hale and Loddon; and in the 7th of Edward I. John de Beauchamp gave his moiety to Simon de Hederfet.

The rector had at this time a manse, with 50 acres of land, valued at 20 marks; and the prioress of Bungay had a pension of 3s. per ann.

In the 24th of Edward III. licence was granted to sir John de Norwich, and Remigius Hederfet, to give the advowson of this church to the master and chaplain of St. Mary of Ravensingham. Sir John's interest herein came by his mother Catherine, wife of sir Walter de Norwich, and a sister of sir Simon de Hederfet, a judge; and sir Roger de Hale's interest herein was also in sir John Norwich.

In 1350, William bishop of Norwich appropriated it to the master and chaplains of Ravensingham,
founded

founded by sir John de Norwich, reserving a pension of 29s. per ann. to the see, and ordaining a vicarage, valued at ten marks, and the charter of foundation is dated that year.

In 1387, the chauntry at Raveningham, for eight chaplains and a master, was removed by the king's licence, and that of Henry bishop of Norwich, and by sir John de Norwich's will, to this town: there were then thirteen chaplains, and a new chapel was built.

In 1350 the vicar was instituted, and presented by the custos of Raveningham college; and in 1396 by the master of Mettingham college.

In the 33d of Henry VIII. sir Anthony Denny had a grant of this appropriated rectory; Roger Castle, esq. had it in the 8th of Elizabeth, and the curate is said to have the tithe of this town, for officiating here and at Raveningham.

In 1552, lady Joan Denny, relict of sir Anthony Denny, presented.

In 1603 it was served by a stipendiary curate, who returned in this town and Raveningham 145 communicants.

The church is a single pile, and thatched, with a round tower and three bells: in the chancel are the arms of Hales and Botetourt; also the arms of England in a bordure, argent.

In 1739, the Rev. William Johnson was presented to this curacy.

RAVENINGHAM, wrote in Doomsday-book Ravenicham. Ralph, lord Baynard, had on the Conquest the grant of a lordship, of which Torn was deprived; and Einbold held it under the lord Baynard at the survey. In Torn's time it was valued at 30s. at the survey at 50s. it was one leuca long, and nine furlongs and an half broad. The said lord had also the grant of the lands of a free-man. In the said town there were four free-men who held land, valued at 20s. but at the survey at 30s.

A family who took their name from the town were enfeoffed of it by the Bigots, the capital lords. Robert de Raveningham was lord in the reign of Henry II. Thomas, his son, held a whole fee here, and was not a knight. In the 6th of king John, William de Raveningham (as appears from the pipe rolls) was found to owe 20s. to the king, to have twenty-four knights summoned to convene twelve jurors on account of perjury in an assise of presentation to this church. Roger de Raveningham was living in the 20th of Henry III, and in the 3d of Edward I. Robert de Raveningham, son of Thomas, conveyed by fine to Peter de Beccles, a lordship in this town, which was conveyed by the said Peter, in the 9th of that king, to Nicholas de Castello, or Castell. In the 4th of Edward I. he was clerk in the king's exchequer, when the king wrote to the treasurer and chamberlain of the exchequer, to deliver out of the treasury to his beloved clerk, Nicholas de Castello, 10l.

In the 6th of that reign, he was the king's remembrancer in the exchequer: he farmed, in the 10th of the said king, the hundreds of Humbleyard, Blofield, Taverham and Walsingham, during the king's pleasure,

pleasure, at 281. per ann. and in the said year bought lands in this town of Walter de Mortimer.

Sir Nicholas de Stuteville, in the 16th of that reign, conveyed to him the manor of Bedingham in Loddon hundred: he was also, in the 14th of that king, a baron of the exchequer; and was lord of Horningtoft in Launditch, in the 18th of Edward I.

In the 29th of Edward I. Gregory de Castello, as a trustee, settled on Nicholas de Castello twenty-one messuages, 700 acres of land, fourteen of meadow, eight of wood, 94 of marsh, 77 of juncary, with 10l. 6s. rent in Raveningham, Hales, Loddon, &c. for life; in the 56th and 57th of Henry III. he was warden of the mint, and in the 1st of Edward I. presented Bartholomew de Brancestre to make the assay of money.

Mr. Parkin has given the pedigree of this family, as collected from old writings, &c. but being in some things erroneous, he has from many ancient records corrected it: but as it is not to our purpose to enter into a genealogical detail of families, we will, in this instance, decline giving *his errors amended*.

Mary, daughter of John Castell, esq. of Raveningham, married sir Edmund Bacon, bart. of Gillingham, his second wife, and had the impropriate of Raveningham and Norton. The Dennys conveyed it to the Castells.

In 1742, John Castell, esq. was lord, and bears argent, three castles, tripple towered gules; crest, a dragon's head,

The

The abbot of Langley had a lordship held of the lord Fitz-Walter, a descendent of lord Baynard, lord at the survey, given with lands by several benefactors, sir Roger de Hales, Jeffrey de Mortimer, John de Mortimer, &c. William de Vernon. of Ravensingham, gave lands in this town and Norton.

Their temporalities were valued in 1428 at 226s. 3d. and granted at the dissolution to Thomas Godsalve, esq.

Sir Edmund Bacon, premier baronet of England, is the present lord: he married a daughter of the late sir William Beauchamp Proctor, bart. and knight of the Bath, and has an handsome seat here.

DEAN and CHAPTER of NORWICH'S FEE. William de Beaufoe, bishop of Thetford, had a grant from William I. of land, &c. valued at the survey at 5s. of which a free-man was deprived, who was under the protection of Aylmer, bishop of Elmham, which bishop Beaufoe held as a lay-fee, and gave it at his death to his church or fee, and so are part of the revenues of the dean and chapter at this time.

In 1298, there was a composition between the prior and convent of Norwich, for two parts of the great and small tithes of the demean lands of Robert, late son of Thomas Baynard, held by Nicholas de Castello, paying yearly to the almoner 40s. and was farmed by the rector of this church.

The temporalities of this fee was held by the lords Bardolph of the fee; before them by the family of de Ages. William, son of sir William de Ages, had an interest here. John de Ages gave to Jeffrey de Mortimer, rector of this church, a certain homage

mage in the reign of Henry III. At this time there is a lordship that bears this name.

At the grand survey the Conqueror had a lordship, of which Godric was his steward. Olf was lord in king Edward's time and deprived, and after him Robert Malet had an interest in it.

Eleven free-men belonged to the lord's fold, and held in commendation what was valued in king Edward's time at 30s. at the survey it paid 60s. quit-rent. Ketelfreda had seven acres with a marsh, valued at 12d.

This lordship remained in the crown sometime, and then was granted to the earl Warren on an exchange for other lands. The ancient family of de Mortimer held it under the earl Warren. Sir William de Mortimer possessed it before the reign of Henry II. lord also of Auleburgh.

In the 4th of Edward I. sir William de Mortimer recovered the advowson against Robert de Ravensingham; after this it came to the Roscelines. Sir Peter de Rosceline was lord in the year 1312, and presented then to this church, sir Thomas, his son and heir; but being in the rebellion in 1325, the king presented.

Soon after it was conveyed by sir Thomas Rosceline, by deed, dated at Norwich in the 6th of Edward III. to dame Catherine, relict of sir Walter de Norwich, and sir John their son, and to Remigius (de Hederfet) brother of the same dame Catherine, this lordship; and the homage and service of sir Gregory de Castello, knt. which he owes to him for lands and tenements, which formerly were Roger
de

de Raveningham's, in Raveningham, Tibenham, Thurton, Loddon, and Norton, together with the advowson of the church of Raveningham, &c.

Sir Walter de Norwich was one of the barons of the Exchequer, constituted *locum tenens* of the treasurer of the Exchequer in the 5th of Edward II. till the king could provide one, and in the said year, on October 25, admitted one of the privy-council. By Catherine his wife he had sir John de Norwich, his eldest son and heir, who in 1350 founded a college here, and settled this lordship, &c. on it.

Another considerable lordship was granted on the conquest to Roger Fitz-Renard, of which Osborn was deprived, a thane of king Edward; and there was a church endowed with 60 acres; the whole valued at the survey at 40s. before at 20s.

The son and heir of Fitz-Renard assumed the name of Hadeſton, formerly a town, but now the chief manor in Bunwell, and was held by them of the earl Warren. The Mortimers had an interest in it, and were enfeoffed of it by that earl, and continued in that family till it came to the Roscelines, who conveyed it to the family of de Norwich, and by them settled on the college of Raveningham, where it continued till its dissolution.

Roger Bigot, ancestor of the earls of Norfolk, had a grant of twelve acres of land, valued in his lordship of Haddiscoe.

In the 35th of Edward I. John de Dunhead, and Isabel de Haggele, held in this town, Wacton, Loddon, Kirby, &c. three fees, &c. of Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk,

Ralph

Ralph de Beaufoë had one socman, with one acre of land, valued at 2d. which belonged to his lordship of Aldby, in this hundred.

Alan, earl of Richmond, had the grant of thirty acres of land, which a free-man of king Edward was deprived of, valued at 5s.

Here was also belonging to the king's manor, a free-man, who before the Conquest held his land independent of any lord: this free-man, called Chetel Frieday, had seven acres and a borderer, and a marsh valued at 12d.

Ralph, the late earl of Norfolk, held it when he was outlawed; it belonged to his fee then, and after, but paid no service to him, or to the king, at the survey, as he proved; this was for the maintenance of the lord. Under the title of Invasions,* we find that Ralph, late earl of Norfolk, had a free-man who held three acres under him, and that Nicholas, the goldsmith of Hugh earl of Chester had seized on it, valued at 6d. but at the survey was in the Conqueror's hand, and granted after to the earl Warren, and so united to his lordship abovementioned.

William de Noiers took care of 30 acres of land, &c. of which three free-men of bishop Stigand were deprived: this belonged to the king's manor of Toft-Monks, and was valued with it.

RAVENINGHAM COLLEGE, was founded by sir John de Norwich in 1350, for a master and eight secular priests,

* Invasiones—In Ravingeha' i lib. hora. de iii ac. 7 erat in censu de Ravingeham qu'. Rad: forisfec. hunc detinuit Nichs. aurifab. Comitibus Hugon. 7 val. vid. mo. e. in manu regis.

priests, to officiate in the church of Raveningham, and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. In his foundation deed he expresses himself in these words :
“ Calling frequently to mind that saying of the
“ Apostle, that what seed a man shall sow, the same
“ shall he reap, &c. for his own soul's health, and
“ that of Margaret his wife, for the honour of God
“ and his mother, St. Andrew the Apostle, and all
“ the Saints ; he founds it by deed ; dated at Thorpe
“ by Norwich, July 25, 1350.”

This sir John was vice-admiral of England ; his two brothers, sir Thomas and sir Roger de Norwich, lie buied in Raveningham church.

Sir Walter, son and heir of sir John the founder, married Margaret, daughter of sir Miles Stapleton, of Ingham, and was father of sir John de Norwich, who died in 1373, and was buried in Raveningham church, by his father sir Walter, “ there to rest, “ till it could be removed to the new church of “ Norton-Coupe-Cors ;” to the building of which he gives 450*l*. He was the last heir male of this family.

The college, by the founder sir John and his heirs, was nobly endowed with the manors of Lyng, Howe, Blackworth, Hadeston, Snoring Parva, the advowson and appropriation of this church of Raveningham ; lands and tenements in East and West Wretham, and Illington, Mettingham castle, the manors of Ilketeshale, Shipmeadow, Melles, Broomfield, Wenhaston and Redesham ; lands in Barsham and Beccles ; the reversion of the manor and advowson of Dalinghow, and the fifth part of the lordship of Alderton in Suffolk.

The jury, in a writ of *Quod Damnum*, in the 5th of Richard II. find it would not be to the king's prejudice, if sir John de Plaiz, sir Richard de Bois, &c. removed this college of eight chaplains to Norton, and augmented it with five more; and in the 11th of Richard II. the college was removed from this town to the rectory house at Norton. In the 13th of that king, Holm-hall in Ravensingham was granted to it; and in his 17th year, sir Miles Stapleton, &c. seoffees, aliened to it three messuages, land, &c. in Norton, Carlton, Howe, and Peres-hall in Bunwell, with lands in Ingham, Knapton, Brington, &c. the advowsons of Tybenham and Carlton, Bunwell and Howe.

On the death of sir John de Norwich, the last heir male of this family, without issue, the lady Catherine de Brewes was found heir to sir John, and the inheritance, as his cousin, being daughter and heir to his brother, sir Thomas de Norwich. To this lady, her uncle, sir Roger de Norwich, conveyed the lordship of Kimberley about 1374. In the 49th of Edward III. she confirmed the grants of her ancestors to this college, and settled her inheritance on her trustees, and being a nun at Dartford in Kent, in the 1st of Richard II. and lady of the capital manor of Great Massingham in Norfolk, licence was granted in the 8th of that king, on September 3, to her seoffees to amortise it to the priory of Dartford.

On July 5, anno 6th of Richard II. licence was granted to the trustees to remove the master and eight chaplains of this college from Norton to the castle of Mettingham in Suffolk, and to increase the same to thirteen; to endow them with the said castle, the manor of Ilketeshall in Suffolk, &c. where it continued till the dissolution, being surrendered to
Henry

Henry VIII. on April 8, anno 33, and on the 14th of the said month and year, was granted to sir Anthony Denny, with the appropriated rectories of this town, Norton, &c. held by his son Henry Denny, esq. in the 4th of Elizabeth.

In 1349, the first master of this college admitted, presented by sir John de Norwich, and also rector of Raveningham, as all his successors were. In 1392, Robert de Willoughby, lord Eresby, presented.

Mr. Richard Shelton occurs in 1530; he had such skill in water-works, that in 1528 his advice was used in cutting Yarmouth haven.

In 1539, Thomas Manning was presented to the college by Charles duke of Suffolk, in right of his wife Catherine. He was suffragan bishop of Ipswich.

The town seems to derive its name from some water or river, called Raven; thus Ravensworth in Durham, and Ravensfield in Yorkshire, Ravensborn, a river in Kent.

The church of Raveningham is dedicated to St. Andrew, and was anciently a rectory, valued at 32 marks; and in the reign of Henry III. the rector had a manse belonging to it, with a carucate of land.

Catherine; relict of sir Walter de Norwich, and sir John de Norwich, had licence of mortmain to give the patronage to the city of Norwich; but this not taking effect, they had a new licence to annex it to Hickling priory; but Catherine dying, sir John had a grant, in the 17th of Edward III. to give and appropriate

appropriate it to his college here. Anthony, bishop of Norwich, on this reserved the first fruits to his fee; and on July 24, 1350, bishop Bateman decreed a pension of 36s. per ann. to be paid to his fee.

At the dissolution the appropriated rectory was granted, as is above-mentioned, with the patronage of the curacy, to sir Anthony Denny, and from that family to Roger Castell, esq. who held it in the 8th of Elizabeth, in which family it continues, and is served by a stipendiary curate.

The curate returned, in 1603, 92 communicants.

The church has a nave, north and south aisle, with a chancel covered with lead, and a round tower with three bells.

In the chancel lie many grave-stones in memory of the Castells. &c.—*John Castell, Esq; aged 44, buried April 16, 1593, and Frances his wife, daughter of Thomas Playter, of Sotterley in Suffolk, Esq; February 14, 1614, with the arms of Castell impaling Playter.*

Roger Castell, Esq. of Raveningham, true owner of the rectories and parsonages of Norton-Subcourse and Raveningham, died May 4, 1582.

Eleanor, late wife of Talmach Castell, of Raveningham, Esq; daughter of Sir William de Grey, of Merton in Norfolk, departed, &c. Nov. 9, 1648, with the arms of Castell and Grey.

Roger Castell, esq. second son of John Castell, Esq; was buried Sept. 3, 1644, and Castell impaling Talmache.

G

Mary,

Mary, late wife of Roger Castell, Esq; second daughter of Sir Lionell Tallemache, of Helmingham in Suffolk, Bart. buried June 23, 1667, in the 82d year of her age.

Avice, wife of John Castell, Gent. departed, &c. September 1. 1715, aged 54, with the arms of Castell, and London of Aldby.

By the communion table—*Here lyeth Ann, the wife of Roger Castell, jun. and daughter of Richard Gardiner, of Cranford in Suffolk, who died March 2, 1697, aged 21 years.*

On the south side of the chancel, by the wall, an altar tomb, and on it a black marble, thus inscribed, *Roger Castell, Esq; youngest son of Roger Castell, Esq; and Mary his wife, daughter of Sir Lionell Tallemache, Bart. departed, &c. Jan. 17, 1708, in the 86th year of his age, and left two sons, John and Roger. He was eminent for his loyalty to King Charles the First, having served him in all the civil war raised against him.*

On the north side of the nave between the two upper pillars, a grey marble, with an effigy of brass, &c.

*Here lyeth buried under this stone of marbyll,
Margaret, sometime wife of Humphrey Castyll,
Late wyfe unto Ralph Willoughby,
Squier for King Richard the Third's body.
The yere of God M.CCCC.LXXX and threë,
On the ix of March departed she
For whose soule beseche you hartly to pray
And devoutly a pater noster and ave to say*

It was ornamented with brass escutcheons; one was lately remaining, with the arms of Willoughby impaling Bokenham or Braunch.

Near to this, *Orate p. a'ab; Johs. Bayspoole, Agnetis et Elene uxor. suar. quar. aiab; p' pilietur Deus.*

Here are also several tomb-stones, in memory of the families of Denny, Pearse, Broome, Cooper, &c.

William Raveningham was buried in an altar tomb in the church-yard, anno 1640, by the end of the north aisle.

In the 16th of Richard II. it was found that sir George Felbrigg, &c. might grant a messuage and 160 acres of land here. to the priory of Herringfleet in Suffolk, held of Ralph Bigot, Nicholas Castell, and William Ingleby, knt. This was granted on January 26, anno 28th of Henry VIII. to Henry Jerningham.

In 1739, the Rev. William Johnston, curate of Norton-Subcourse, was presented to the curacy of Raveningham.

STOCKTON, wrote Stoutuna in Doomsday-book. William de Noiers, at the grand survey, was steward of this lordship, for the Conqueror, on the deprivation of Stigand, archbishop of Canterbury, who was lord before the conquest, and held it as a lay fee, and as a beruite to his manor of Earsham; it was two leucas long, one broad, paid 5s. 4d. gelt, and was valued in Earsham.

It remained in the crown till king Stephen granted it to Hugh Bigot, on his being created earl of Norfolk,

folk; Hugh, his grandson, earl of Norfolk, married Maud, daughter and co-heir to the Marshals, earls of Pembroke, by whom she had Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, and sir Ralph, a younger son, who was enfeoffed of this lordship, and held it under the earl; to this Ralph, Walter de Shipmeadow, of Suffolk, conveyed by fine, in the 24th of Henry III. his right of fishing in the river Waveney, between the towns of Stockton and Shipmeadow, and in the cutting of reed, rush, flag, &c. he married Berta, daughter of the Lord Furnival, and died without issue, as did Roger, his brother, earl of Norfolk; so that the inheritance came to Roger Bigot, eldest son of Hugh Bigot, who is said to be chief-justice of England.

Roger being thus heir, and earl of Norfolk, confirmed to his brother, sir John Bigot, this lordship; and in the 15th of Edward I. was found to have free-warren, the assise, a gallows, &c. he died in the 33d of Edward I. when it was held by him in capite of the king. Roger, his brother, the earl, having no children, made the king his heir, and disinherited sir John and his children in some disgust: sir Henry Spelman says, "that the earl being indebted to him, he was too pressing on that account." He left a son, sir Ralph, who proved his age in the 34th of Edw. I. had livery, and was living in the 3d year of Edward III.

Sir Ralph Bigot, son of sir Ralph, sold in the 16th of Edward III. to sir Roger de Sotterly, 11s. 6d. rent per annum, with the rent of 1500 herrings, in Giffelham, Sotterly, &c.

Sir John Bigot was his son and heir, and died lord about 1390, father of sir Ralph, who married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of sir Thomas Mortimer

mer, of Attleburgh, by whom he had a daughter and heir, Elizabeth. Sir Ralph's will is dated at Geldestone, February 20, 1415; she survived him, and married to her second husband, Henry Pakenham, esq. and to her third, Thomas Manning, esq. By her will, proved in 1463, she was buried in the Augustine Friars church of Norwich, and gave to her husband Manning, her manors in Ellingham Magna, &c.

Elizabeth, daughter and heir of sir Ralph Bigot, brought it by marriage to William Garneys, esq. his will is dated February 13, in the 8th of Henry V. whereby he gives to Elizabeth, his wife, this lordship, and the soc of Stockton, with the manor of Berys in Geldestone, &c. for life, and at her death, to Ralph, his son and heir, &c.

Ralph Garneys, esq. of Kenton in Suffolk, inherited it, but died without issue in 1446; and in the said year, Edmund Swathing, esq. conveyed by fine, his right in this lordship to William de la Pole, marquis and earl of Suffolk.

After this, in the first year of Edward IV. Alice, then dutchess, and John her son, duke of Suffolk, was querents in a fine, and Margaret Swathing, Thomas Sharington, Amabil Morpeth, and William Garneys, deforcients (as heirs to Ralph Garneys) surrender their interest herein.

We have seen a particular grant of this Alice, as follows:—"Know all myne executors, and all tolks, that I Alyse, dutchess of Suffolk, have geven and granted to my dere and well-beloved sone John, duke of Suffolk, and to my lady Elizab. his wife, sister to our sovereyne lord, king Edward 4, all my

“ fluffe and plate of silver and gilte, and of gold,
 “ and all my beddys of cloth of gold, and of silk,
 “ and of arras, and of tapestrie work, &c. with God’s
 “ blessing and myne for ever.—Dated at Eve, Oc-
 “ tober 3, ao. xi, Edward 4.—In witness of which
 “ thinge, to this dede and graunte, signed of my
 “ hande, I have sett my seale, ALYCE.

On the attainder of Edmund de la Pole, earl of Suffolk, it came to the crown, and was granted by Henry VIII. to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, and on his death to lady Ann, of Cleves, and she held it in the 2d of Edward VI. then the divorced wife of Henry VIII.

After this it was again in the crown, and queen Elizabeth possessed it, with the soc, valued in 1570 at 49l. 14s. 3d. and was farmed of her by Mr. Smith, of Winston, paying a fee-farm rent. The soc took in the manors of Ellingham, Gillingham, Goldeston, Winston, Windale, and Kirby Cane, the court baron and lete for the soc were then annually kept on St. Margaret’s day, and the custom of the manor, &c. was, “ that the bailiff, or any tenant of the same, might take distress in the soken of any man, either dwelling or having goods within the same (the debt being under 40s.) and have the action tried on St. Margaret’s day; the sheriff of the county could not arrest within the soken, but break the writ, and direct the warrant to the bailiff of the manor who executed it: by their charter they are not to serve at assise or sessions, and all the tenants have liberty to common in the fen called Micklesen, which lieth in Geldeston and Ellingham.”

On the first of July, in the 3d of James I. this manor and soc was granted to Charles, Duke of York,

York, the king's son; and in the 17th of Charles I. was held in fee-farm rent of him, by Simon Smith, esq.

The temporalities of Langley abbey were 3s. 1d. ob. and the lordship of Kirby extended into this town.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Michael: in the reign of Edward I. Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, and earl marshal, as capital lord, was patron; and it was then valued at twelve marks; the rector had a manse with thirty acres of land.

In 1505 John Pinchebeke died rector, and was buried in the college church of Mettingham, and gave eleven acres of land in Kirby field to his successors, with one acre and an half in Winston field, "to keep every year a certain and yere-day with messe and dirige;" and to the church of Stockton 11 acres in Winston: from the Mowbrays this came to the Howards, dukes of Norfolk, who were patrons.

In 1603 the rector returned forty-one communicants.

In 1758 the Rev. Valentia Lumley was presented to this rectory by Valentia Lumley, gent.

The present value is 8l. and is discharged; the patronage is in the duke of Norfolk, who is lord.

In the chancel, on a grave-stone with a brass plate — "Hic jacet Johs. Sale, S.T.B. in medicina licenciatus, egregie in utraq; facultate doctus, legum insuper quas vocant communium non mediocriter peritus, qui postquam hic Stockton rector anima-

“rum curæ diligenter et fideliter p. quinquennium
 “intervisset, ac tantum non callaplas rectoriæ ædes
 “suis solis sumptibus instaurasset, isto sub marmore
 “conditus est, 5 Martij,—15.

In the chancel, on a grave-stone—*Orate p. aia
 Willi Wright, qui obt. 25, die Maij, 1513.*

In the church the arms of Steward impaling Read,
 and *Orate probono statu Augustini Steward, civis et al-
 dermanni Norwici, 1535.*—Fineaux impaling Paston.
 —Hobart impaling Fineaux.—Godsalve.—Bigot of
 Stockton, also Carvil.

William Wright, of this town, buried in the
 church, 1515, gives to the commoners of Stockton,
 6l. on condition “that they can find means to get
 more friends, and purchase as much land as shall
 purchase the whole fee.—*Reg. Johnson, fol. 226.*

THORPE, called Haddiscoe-Thorpe, or Thorpe
 near Haddiscoe, to distinguish it from other towns of
 the same name in this county.

This town is not mentioned in the grand survey,
 being part of Roger Bigot's manor of Haddiscoe,
 and part of Ralph de Beaufoe's manor of Aldby in
 this hundred, and therein accounted for. From the
 Bigots, earls of Norfolk, it came to Thomas de
 Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, by a grant of his brother
 Edward II. and so to the lord Seagrave, the
 Mowbrays, and the Howards, dukes of Norfolk.

In the 20th of Edward III. Stephen de Catfield,
 William de Thorpdale, &c. held a quarter of a fee,
 which Nicholas de Potter, and the tenants of John
 de Thorpdale, formerly held of the earl of Norfolk;
 and

and in the 4th of Henry IV. the lord had a quarter of a fee. called Potters. Richard de Catfield died seised of the manor of Thorpe by Haddiscoe, in the 1st year of Richard II.

William Catfield, of this town, died in 1474, was buried in this church, and gave this manor to Alice, his wife, for life remainder to Richard de Southwell, esq. of Wood-Rising, who had bought the reversion.

The Bigots, the Mowbrays, and the Howards; were also capital lords of this fee, and presented to a moiety of the church.

Ralph de Beaufoe's interest herein, as lord of Aldby, came to his daughter and heir Agnes, married to Hubert de Rye, and this was held by the Roscelines, with Aldby. William de Rosceline was lord and patron of a moiety of this church in the reign of Edward I. under the barons of Rye.

After this it was in the Marshalls, and from them came to the Lovels and the Parkers, lords Morley. Edward lord Morley, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, conveyed it to his second son, Henry Parker, esq. After this it was conveyed to the Calthorpes, and Christopher Calthorpe, esq. of Aldby, presented to this church in the 9th of James I. Sir James Calthorpe, his son and heir, gave it to his second son Henry, who was recorder of London, and a knight, and died seised of it in the year 1637, and of Ampton, near Bury St. Edmund's, in Suffolk: and his immediate descendent, James Calthorpe, esq. is lord.

Robert's

Robert's (son of Corbun) lordship in Haddiscoe, also extended into this town, which came after to the Albini's, earls of Arundel, the Tatehales, and the Cliftons.

In the 20th of Edward III. the prior of St. O-lave's, the heirs of Robert de Gillingham, &c. held here a quarter of a fee, which the prior and Robert formerly held of the lord Tatehale; and in 1428 the temporalities of that priory here were valued at 10s. ob. Adam Bacon aliened to it three messuages and 4½ acres of land here, in Norwich, &c. anno 6th of Edward II.

The Gilbertine nuns had temporalities also, valued at 10s.

The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Matthew, and consisted of two medieties. In the 18th of Henry III. Andrew Wafcelein granted by fine to John Rosceline, the advowson of a mediety; and in the reign of Edward I. William Rosceline was patron of a mediety, valued at 40s. and Robert de Loddon, patron of the other, valued at 40s.

In January, 1361, there was an agreement between lord Mowbray, and William de Morley, marshal of Ireland, patrons, to consolidate the two medieties, and to present alternately.

In 1591, the patronage of one mediety went to the king, on the attainder of Philip earl of Arudel; and in 1603 the rector returned thirty-eight communicants,

The present value of the church is 3l. 6s. 4d. and is discharged.

In

In 1758, the Rev. Samuel Browne was presented to this rectory by the crown, who has an alternate presentation with James Galthorpe, esq. of Ampton.

THURLTON, or THURVERTON. In this town were several lordships at the time that the grand survey was made. One was in the king's hand, and William de Noiers took care of it for the king, of which Stigand the archbishop was deprived.

One free-man possessed it under Stigand, and valued at 2s there were also two free-men with land, &c. valued at 16d. and here was one free-man, the predecessor of Ralph de Beaufoe, with eight acres, valued at 12d.

It remained in the crown till it was granted to Robert de Beaumont, earl of Leicester, who gave it to the abbey of Preaux in Normandy, with the lordship of Toft-Monks in this hundred.

The lord Baynard's manor of Chedgrave extended into this town, and was held of them by the family of de Rosceline; from that family it descended to the lords Willoughby, who held one fee here, in Chedgrave, &c. of the lords Fitz-Walter, and were patrons of a mediety of the church.

In the 31st of Henry VIII. sir Nicholas Hare conveyed by fine to William Read, citizen and mercer of London, the manor of Baynard's in Thurverton or Thurlton, with messuages and lands in Thorpe, Ravensingham, &c. and his son and heir, William, was lord in the reign of queen Mary, and Thomas Ward in the 34th of Elizabeth.

Ash Windham, esq. was lord in 1742, and his son, William Windham, esq. succeeded him, who dying in 1761, left his son and heir a minor, William Windham, of Felbrigg, esq.

Alan, earl of Richmond, had a small fee, of which a free-man was deprived, valued at 16d.

William de Scohies had the lands of seven free-men, with the moiety of another, and Odar held it of William, of these his predecessor, Ralph de Beaufoe, had the protection only, in the reign of king Edward; and the moiety of a church, valued at 10s. with 12 acres.

Roger Bigot, ancestor of the earls of Norfolk, had the grant of a small fee, and Robert de Veaux held it under Roger: this belonged to Haddiscoe manor.

Roger, son of Reynard, possessed lands, &c. which a free-man held under the protection only of Ralph de Beaufoe, valued at 8s.

In Thurlton also at the survey were eight acres, which a free-man of the predecessor of Ralph de Beaufoe held; then this free-man belonged to no lordship, but is stiled the king's free-man: this was valued at 12d.

The town is often called in in old deeds, Thurlton by Haddiscoe.

The temporalities of St. Bennet's abbey were 7s. 1d. of St. Olave's 6d. of Norwich 28s. 6d. ob. of Carrowe priory 11s. of the priory of de Preaux 6s. 5d.

Robert

Robert Thurgarton aliened to the priory of Norwich a cottage and six acres of land here and in Toft-Monks.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and was a rectory of two medieties. In the reign of Edward I. sir Peter Rosceline was patron of one mediety, valued at four marks, and the rector had a manse with 15 acres; and Robert de Loddon was patron of the other, valued also at four marks, with a manse and 15 acres.

In the 6th of Edward III. Thomas de Morle of Norwich, and Beatrix his wife, daughter and heirs of sir Thomas Rosceline, knt. conveyed to William bishop of Norwich, the advowson of this church by fine.

William Ayrmine, bishop of Norwich, bought the patronage of both the medieties, but in the 8th of Edward the 3d, the hospital of St. Giles in Norwich had licence of appropriation of them, on the grant of the said bishop, who accordingly appropriated them for a chauntry and three chaplains in his chapel at the palace in Norwich. Afterwards Walter Hart, bishop of Norwich, on the resignation of this church by the proctors of the hospital, remitted the sustentation of the three chaplains to the said hospital, and the payment of 6s. 8d. per ann. paid on account of the appropriation, in the year 1448.

In 1504, the rector was presented by the mayor, &c. of Norwich; and in 1603 the rector returned 140 communicants.

The value was 6l. 13s. 4d.

Against

Against the north wall of the chancel. *Here lyeth Ann Denny, one of the eight daughters and co-heirs of William Sydnor, Esq; and wife of Glover Denny, Gent. who died March 9, 1665.*

The patronage of Thurlton is in the mayor and corporation of Norwich, who in 1757 presented the Rev. Paul Colombine.

TOFT-MONKS, or TOFT. William de Noiers was steward of the principal manor in this town, at the time of making the book of Doomſday, for the Conqueror, who had ſeized on it, on the deprivation of archbiſhop Stigand, who held it as a lay-fee in the reign of the Confeſſor, and was valued, &c. in Haddiſcoe.

It remained in the crown till granted to Robert de Bellemont, earl of Mellent in Normandy, and of Leiceſter in England, in the reign of Henry I. who gave it to the benedictine abbey of de Pratellis (or Preaux) in Normandy; and on that account was called Monks-Tofts. In the 14th of Edward I. the abbot claimed the aſſiſe, a gallows, and many other liberties, who had a cell here.

In the 20th of Richard II. ſir Lewis Clifford, by the mediation and liſenſe of that king, had a grant from the abbott of Preaux, of this manor, for life, on a certain rent, with the remainder to his ſon Lewis, with Warmington in Warwickſhire, Spelbury in Dorſetſhire, and Aſton in Berkhſhire; and in the parliament at Leiceſter, in the 2d of Henry V. on the diſſolution of alien priories, it came to the crown, and was granted for life to ſir Thomas Erpingham, March 15th, anno 6th. The ſaid king in his 19th year gave it to Eaton college; after this Edward IV. gave

gave it to King's college, Cambridge, where it still continues. Henry V. on its dissolution, is said to have granted the revenues to the Carthusians of Witham in Somersethire, which they held some short time.

Humphrey de Wirlingham in the 54th of Henry III. granted to this cell, and to the abbot of St. Peter and St. Paul de Preaux, land, rent, &c. here, in Haddiscoe-Thorpe, &c. Nicholas Carde, a monk of this cell, or priory, proctor for the abbey of de Preaux, accounted for 100l. in the 13th of Edw. III. as custos of the lands and tenements, goods and chattels of the same; and in 1428 their temporalities were valued at 40l. 16s. 10d. ob.

In Toft-Monks also, and in Raveningham, a freeman had 60 acres of land, mortgaged by several persons, valued at 20s. This was in the king; at the survey William de Noiers took care of it, which Stigand the archbishop held as a lay-fee, and was deprived of.

In the 34th of Henry the 3d, William de Tofts had an interest herein, and in the 6th of Edward the 3d, William de Stafford had a lordship; and in the 12th of that king, Walter his son died seised of it, and James his brother was his heir.

In the 9th of Richard the 2d, a fine was levied between Richard Dodenhale, merchant of Coventry, querent, and Richard Bottler, deforciant, of the manor of Netherhall in this town, &c. and in the 17th of that king, sir John Panton died seised of Overhall and Netherhall manors, and John was his son and heir; but in the 1st year of Henry the 4th, Richard Botler conveyed the said lordships to James Billingsford

Billingsford by fine; and the 3d of that king, Jeffrey Wafre held here and in Raveningham a quarter of a fee, called Reedswell, in capite.

James Billingsford, of Blackworth-hall in Stoke Holy-crofs, died lord in the 17th of Edward IV. and John Billingsford, esq. in the 11th of James I.

Ash Windham, esq. was lord in 1742, and his son William Windham inherited it, and his son William Windham, esq. of Felbrigg, is the present lord.

The abbey of Langley abbey had considerable possessions here; their temporalities were valued at 26s. 8d.

In the 1st of Richard the 2d, here were lands given by John Loudham to the repair of St. Olave's caufey.

The church of Toft-Monks is dedicated to St. Margaret; two parts of it were appropriated to the abbey of Preaux by the bishop of Norwich, and confirmed anno 1181, and were valued at twenty marks. The third part was a rectory valued at ten marks; the two appropriated parts always passed with the manor belonging to Preaux abbey, and the third part was held by a rector, who in Edward I.'s time had a manse and 30 acres of land.

The rectory is valued at 8l. and is discharged.

On an alabaster monument against the north wall of the chancel, *Hic jacet sepultus Joh. Bayspoole of Toft-Monks, in Com. Norf. gen. obt. die 3^o. Aug. 1624, cum uxore sua Eliz. Spelman, sorore viri nobilis Hen. Spelman, equitis.*

The

The patronage of this church is in the provost and fellows of King's college, Cambridge, who in 1751 presented the Rev. John Lodington to this rectory, consolidated with Haddiscoe Aug. 29, 1739.

WHETACRE, Wetacre, Whiteacre, or Wheat-acre, called in Doomsday-book Wateaker; and BURGH ST. PETER. Ralph lord Baynard, for his services, was rewarded with this town by the Conqueror, on the expulsion of Toret, a thane of king Edward, and was held by Jeffrey under the lord Baynard; and there were two churches endowed with sixty acres, valued at 5s. and the manor was valued at 30s. but at the survey at 50s. It was one leuca long, and half a leuca broad.

William Jeffrey, his son, taking part with Elias, earl of Maine in France, and other conspirators against Henry I. was deprived of his barony of Baynard castle in London, which was granted to Robert Fitz-Gilbert, whose son Walter Fitz-Robert succeeded, and the descendents of Jeffrey abovementioned held it of him; Thomas, son of Robert Baynard holding it in the reign of Richard I. Robert Baynard had a charter in the 12th of Edward II. for two fairs and two markets here.

Robert Baynard, of Whetacre, April 16, in the 4th of Edward III. died seised of "a capital messuage of no value, besides the repairs, a pidgeon-house valued at 12d. per ann. 180 acres of arable land valued at 4l. 10s. at 6d. per acre, 100 acres of salt-marsh at 100s. per ann. 20 of gross wood, without underwood, valued at 2d. per acre, a windmill at 20s. per ann. rents of assise payable at Lady-day, Midsummer and Michaelmas, 6l. 6s. 4d. copy-

holders days works between Michaelmas and St. Peter *ad vincula* 10s. and between that feast and Michaelmas 20s. pleas and perquisites of courts 10s. per ann. held of the lords Fitz-Walter," and Thomas was his son and heir.

This Thomas Baynard sold this lordship, in the 10th of the said king, to sir Thomas Rosceline, from whom it came to John, lord Willoughby, of Eresby in Lincolnshire, and from them to Richard Bertie, by the heiress, whose son Peregrine was lord Willoughby in his mother's right, and presented to the church in 1602. Of this family are the dukes of Ancafter and Kesteven.

John Wentworth, esq. was lord of both manors and patron of the churches of Whetacre and Burgh St. Peter, Sept. 21, in the 16th of James I. and sir John Wentworth was his son and heir.

Matthew Bluck, esq. one of the six clerks in Chancery, was lord in 1675, and in this family it remained till conveyed to William Grimstone, esq.

The lord Baynard had also the grant of another lordship in this town, of which a free-man of Harold the king was deprived. Robert Corbution, or Corbun, claimed it, and had livery; valued then at 30s. at the survey at 45s. This came to the lord Baynard by an exchange, and Frankus held it of him.

The ancient family of de Edgefield was soon after the conquest enfeoffed of this lordship, and held it in the reign of Henry II. from whom it came by an heiress to sir William Rosceline, and was held of the lord Fitz-Walter, with Chedgrave, Edgefield, &c
Si

Sir Thomas de Rosceline dying without issue, it came to the lords Willoughby, &c. as above.

The temporalities of Norwich priory were 13s. 4d. of Langley abbey 3l. 5s. 5d.

Here are two churches; one dedicated to St. Peter a rectory, valued at eleven marks; the rector had a manse, with three acres of land. This is called Whetacre-Burgh, or Burgh St. Peter.

In 1325, Gerard de Horstede presented rector. He is called Esquire of the lady Rosceline, went in a lay-coloured habit (*veste stragulata*) and had not the clerical tonsure,

In 1553, Richard Bertie, esq. of Ormsthorpe in Lincolnshire, presented, in right of his wife Catherine: in 1669 Thomas Garneys presented, and in 1713 William Grimstone, esq.

The present value is 7l. 6s. 8d. and is discharged.

In 1764, the Rev. Samuel Boycott was presented to this church by Philip Bedingfield, esq. and Mr. Charles Tutke.

The village of Whetacre is situated on an eminence, which commands (from the church tower, or from the White-house) a very extensive prospect. The country here is rich and pleasant, and the roads good. It is about thirteen miles from Yarmouth, four from Beccles, and seven from Lowestoft.

The other church is dedicated to All Saints. John de Bumpstede is said to have had an interest in the patronage, but in the beginning of Edward II. the family

family of Baynard: the rector had then a beautiful manse, and it was valued at 5l. This parish is called Whetacre All Saints.

In 1603, the rector returned 68 communicants.—The present value is 6l. 6s. 4d. and is discharged.

In 1758, the Rev. Christopher Smear was presented to this church by the Rev. Lyne Smear, for many years minor canon of the cathedral church of Norwich.

This town is situated at the eastern extremity of the hundred of Clavering, and is bounded by the Waveney, which divides Norfolk from Suffolk. The present rector, who is also patron, has built a handsome parsonage house, ornamented in much taste, with plantations, &c. Sir Alexander Leith, bart. major of the Westminster volunteers, has a considerable property in Burgh St. Peter.

That the vale, which now forms the marsh grounds on each side of the Waveney, was formerly an æstuary, communicable with the ocean at Yarmouth, is unquestionable: Camden, Spelman and Ives, give us an account of marine stores which have at different times since been found; and the latter, in his *Gariæonum*, inserts an ancient map of *Gariensis Ostium*, (of the rivers Yare, Bure and Waveney) as it is supposed to have appeared in the year 1000. Some few years ago an anchor was found in a piece of morass ground, which has the appearance of having been once a navigable creek. Twenty-seven curious and valuable ancient gold coins were lately found in this parish.



T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
N O R F O L K.

Hundred of DEPWADE,

IS about eight miles in length from east to west, and six from north to south, and takes its name from the Depe-ford* over the river by Tasburgh, which though now of no great remark, in early days was otherwise, the river *Taïs* being then very broad, and fordable in no place in this hundred but here.

The hundred is bounded on the north by the hundreds of Humbleyard and Forehoe; on the east by Henstead and Loddon; on the west by Shropham;
A and

* Depe, deep, and waden, to wade, so that Depwade is the deep ford.

and on the south by Difs and Earsham hundreds. The fee of it was in the crown till Richard I. gave it to Gundred the countess; and in 1225 Henry III. gave it for life to Roger de Hadisco. In 1249 it was valued at nine marks a year. In 1274 it was in the hands of Edward I. and was valued at 6l. per annum clear; this king settled it on John de Clavering for a term of years, and in 1315 Edward II. assigned it to sir Walter de Norwich; but in 1327 Edward III. granted it to sir John de Clavering, with Costessey, &c. and his heirs, since which time the inheritance of it attended Costessey, and was afterwards sold by divers of the lords there; the several lords of the manors purchased the royalties and leets belonging to their manors, by which means the hundred-court failed.

This hundred paid 65l. 13s. 11d. clear to every tenth, and now raises annually to the land tax, at 4s. in the pound, 3057l. 14s. 9d. it also pays to the general county rate 25l. 11s. 6d. at a six-hundred pound levy.

This hundred contains the following towns, to which we add the number of votes polled at the contested election in 1768:

	W.	de G.	A.	C.
Ashwelthorpe -	5	3	4	4
Allaſton -	2	1	3	2
Bunwell -	0	0	5	5
Carleton-Rode -	4	3	12	11
Fornet St. Mary } -	2	4	9	7
Fornet St. Peter }				
Fritton -	0	0	3	3
Fundenhall -	0	0	1	1

Hapton

D E P W A D I E.

3

Hapton	6	6	2	5
Hardwick	6	5	4	3
Hempnall	4	4	8	8
Moulton All Saints	}	2	0	0
Moulton St. Michael				
Mourningthorpe	1	1	1	1
Shelton	2	2	2	0
Stratton St. Mary	}	7	4	3
Stratton St. Michael				
Tacolneston	5	3	1	1
Tasburgh	5	3	3	3
Tharston	0	0	6	6
Tibbenham	1	1	5	5
Wacton Magna and Parva	1	1	3	3
<hr/>				
	47	40	76	68
<hr/>				

These villages make up the deanry of Depwade, which contained twenty-three parishes, and was taxed at 16s. and the deans were collated by the bishops of Norwich, till 1498, when Mr. Thomas Wolsey, A. M. was the last rural dean of Depwade.

The Seats and principal Houses in this Hundred are

Carleton-Rode,	Rev. John Buxton,
Forncet,	
Hempnall,	
Mourningthorpe,	Rev. Thomas Howes.
Stratton, Long,	Rev. Randall Burroughs.
Tacolneston,	Knipe Gobbet, esq.
Ditto,	Rev. Thomas Warren.
Ditto,	Rev. Charles Browne.
Tibbenham Channons,	John Buxton, esq.

This hundred, says Mr. Blomefield, " being so near Norwich, it hath not any place where there is a market now kept. The soil is rich and well inclosed, and hath much wood and timber in it, but the roads (as a necessary consequence of good land) are dirty and bad ;" but this, since that author's time, is much altered ; the turnpike roads leading from Norwich to Scole Inn, and to New Buckenham, through this hundred, are excellent ; and the great improvements lately made, and now making, by enclosing waste lands, forming new roads, and otherwise enriching the face of the country, has rendered Mr. Blomefield's account now erroneous.

ASHWELTHORPE was anciently called Thorpe only, and Ashwell was a hamlet in Thorpe, but there being so many Thorpes in the county, about the time of king Stephen it began, for distinction sake, to be called Ashwelthorpe ; the name of Ashwell* does not once occur in Doomsday-book, though it seems to have been a well inhabited place ; for in 1311 sir John de Thorpe, knt. founded the Free Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin, at Ashwell, and built a house for the residence of a chaplain, or chantry priest, to perform daily service in it to the inhabitants of the hamlet, and to pray for his own and wife's souls, and those of his ancestors and successors for ever. Having obtained a royal licence of mortmain, he settled the house and five marks a year for the chaplain's maintenance ; but in 1315, thinking he had not fully endowed it, he added to it other possessions, which the king, and sir John de Clavering, knt. his chief lord, confirmed. The revenues of this chapel were valued at 3l. and paid 6s. annual tenths ; but at the dissolution of chantries, in the time of

* It signifies the well, or spring, by the ash-trees,

of Edward VI. the whole was seized, and granted away by that king; and in 1598 sir Thomas Knevet purchased the chapel-house, and all that belonged to the dissolved chapel of Ashwell, and ever since they have continued with the manor.

Ashwell was also a distinct manor from Thorpe, (and a family had their surname from this hamlet): Ric de Ashwell was lord of it in the time of Henry III. and after him sir John Eswell, or Ashwell, his son, who sold it to the Thorpes; they joined it to their manor of Thorpe, with which it still continues, but the title was not completed till 1347. and then John de Ashwellthorpe, son (we suppose) of sir John, confirmed the whole to sir Edmund de Thorpe, knt. and his heirs.

THORPE contained one manor only; at the Confessor's survey it belonged to a thane of bishop Stigand, and was worth 5l. per annum. At the conquest it belonged to earl Eustace, and was worth 6l. it was a mile and a half long, and five furlongs broad, and paid 6d. ob. q. gelt. It soon after this belonged to one William, sometimes distinguished by the addition of Norwich, where he lived; and that Roger mentioned in the record, called Testa de Nevile, seems to have been his son; he was succeeded by Robert, called Fitz-Roger, and after by the name of sir Robert de Maffingham-*Parva*, who held several fees in Thorpe, Maffingham, Anmer, and many other towns, of the honor of Bononia, or Boulogne. His wife, Eda, survived him, and held Thorpe in 1209, when she was called Eda de Thorpe. Hugh, son of Robert, lived at the same time; he is also called sometimes Hugh de Maffingham, and was succeeded by sir John the knight, son

of sir Hugh, often called John Fitz-Robert; he was lord of Ashwelthorpe, Fundenhall, Wrenningham, Bunwell, &c. and married Margery, daughter of sir Robert de Creak, lord of North Creak, and Hillington, in Norfolk, and Combes, in Suffolk.

Robert Fitz-John de Thorpe, their son, succeeded them; who in the time of Henry III. *anno* 1236, was one of the resident barons of the Exchequer, his countryman, master Hervey de Belet, being then chief baron.

In 1266 Henry III. confirmed to Robert Fitz-John de Thorpe free-warren in all his demesnes here, &c. This Robert in 1264 had several manors, lands, &c. confirmed to him by Robert, son of sir Richard Narford, kn^t. of Wrenningham. In 1271 he was impleaded for erecting a gallows at Ashwelthorpe, when the manor never had that liberty, which he took down again; but had then free-warren, view of frankpledge, and assize of bread and ale, allowed to the manor in *cire*. It seems Margery Creak, his mother, was alive in 1274, and had an annuity out of the manor. In this year Robert Fitz-John de Thorpe* was high sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk. In 1284 he was allowed the liberties of a gallows, pillory, and waif, in this manor.

John de Thorpe, son of Robert aforesaid, succeeded, being lord. In 1293, he was summoned among the great men to attend Edward I. at Portsmouth, on the 1st of September, in order to recover Gascoign,

* In 1249 this appears to have been a numerous family. In 1274 it seems that a John Fitz-John de Thorpe was descended from the family of Lovell.

Gascoign, then possessed by the French king; and this year he procured his father's executors to advance, by way of loan to the king, 167*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* ob. on his going that journey. In 1307 he was summoned as one of the king's council; and in 1309 had another summons to attend Edward III. at Newcastle upon Tyne, to march against the Scots, who had broken the truce made with them, at the instance of Philip the French king. In 1314 this manor was held of sir John de Clavering at one fee; in 1315, being appointed high sheriff of the county, he got a letter sent to sir William de Norwich to get him excused, by reason of his corporal infirmities; and another to Hervy de Stanton, chancellor of the Exchequer, from the prior of Norwich, by whose interest he got off serving the office at present.

In 1321 a commission issued to sir John de Thorpe, and others, to seize all persons in Norfolk and Suffolk who should rise in arms against the king. In 1322 he and Thomas Bardolph were appointed wardens to guard the coast of Norfolk against any invasions of the Flemings, or Scots; and the same year he, and Alice, his wife, conveyed the manor of Aileswesthorpe, in Freebridge hundred, and the advowson of the moiety of that church, &c. after their deaths, to the prior of Pentney, and his successors. In 1323 he was joined with Walter de Norwich, Simon de Hetherfete, and John de Redenhall, knts. who were all appointed the king's justices to examine into the frauds committed by the collectors of the taxes, several of them having collected more than they returned into the Exchequer; but dying* on the

A 4

16th

* Just before his death he was joined with sir Edmund Bacon, knt. to treat of, and assent to, a match between Alphonso, eldest

16th of May this year, John de Clavinger was made justice in his stead. He, and Alice, his wife, held jointly at his death, Hillington, Hemlingham, Maf-singham-*Parva*, Tittleshall, Thorpe, Wrenningham, Fundenhall, Hapton, Combes, &c. manors, and Robert de Thorpe was his eldest son; he married Beatrix, daughter of sir Edmund de Hengrave, and died possessed of these manors in 1329, leaving a wife, and John de Thorpe, his eldest son and heir; and John de Clavinger, his chief lord, was his guardian. In 1339 he made sir George de Thorpe, knt. and John Yemme, of Norwich, his attornies to present to his livings during his being out of England, in the king's service, in France; he died in 1340, and Joan, his widow, who was heiress to Lucy, and Maud, her sisters, daughters of Roger Atte-Esne, was alive, and married, in 1345, sir Roger le Strange, who was lord here in her right during her life; but they having no issue, sir Edmund de Thorpe, his brother, inherited; and in 1348 there was a suit commenced to prove Joan, his then wife, a bastard; but on trial, bishop Bateman certified, that she was legitimate, and was sister and heiress of Thomas Bainard, who died seised of Colkirke and Gately manors in 1329, and therefore Edmund had those manors of her inheritance. In 1358 he infeoffed his manors, &c. to raise a hundred marks per ann. for twenty-one years, to pay his debts, and 100l. to each of his daughters, Beatrix, and Joan; John, his second son, was to have all his lands in Suffolk to him and his heirs; and Robert, his third son, to have Bunwell.

In

dest son to the king of Arragon, and Joan, daughter of Edward II. king of England; the day for the treaty being fixed by the patent, to be held at the Tower of London, February 19, 1322.

In his time the several fees and manors held of the manor of Ashwelthorpe were extended, and by the extent renewed, it appeared that half a fee in "Sweyneſthorp, Gouthorp, and Dunſton," was held by the annual payment of a pair of boots to the lord of Ashwelthorpe, and a pair of buskins, lined with felt, to the Lady there, which was then held by John de Hetherſete; and Nicholas de Aldburgh held in Denton, and Aldburgh, one fee, by the payment of a pair of gilt ſpurs every Eaſter.

This family had many fees held in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgſhire, and Eſſex, of their ſeveral manors of Maſſingham-*Parva*, North-Creak, Fundenhall, and Hemlingham; beſides which, the family of the Thorpes inherited eſtates and fees in Creak and Hillington.

A coteemporary and relation to ſir Edmund (but how near we cannot find) was ſir William de Thorpe, who was made a king's ſerjeant in the 16th of Edward III. and afterwards juſtice both of the King's Bench and Common Pleas, and November 26, 1347, chief juſtice of the King's Bench.

In 1350 the record of judgment had againſt ſir William Thorpe, late chief juſtice, was affirmed, conſidering that againſt his oath he had received bribes*, but he was ſoon after reſtored to the king's favor, and made a baron of the Exchequer.

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* In the 10th of Richard II. ſir William Thorpe, late chief juſtice of the King's Bench, was adjudged heretofore to death, and to forfeit his lands, for receiving 20l. of one, for a matter depending before him.

In 1353 sir Robert de Thorpe, brother to sir William, was made the king's serjeant, and summoned to parliament, among the judges and king's council, in 1356; chief justice of the Common Pleas in 1357; and lord chancellor of England, March 26, 1372.

Sir Edmund de Thorpe, jun. eldest son of sir Edmund aforesaid, was married October 6, 1368, to Margaret, daughter of Richard De-la-Rivere, after whose decease he married Joan, daughter and heiress of sir Robert de Northwood, of Northwood-Barningham, in Norfolk, and of Northwood, in Kent, who was widow to Roger lord Scales, of Newcels; for which match, not having obtained the king's licence, he was pardoned in 1387, upon paying the king 20l. for a fine for that *transgression*, the said lady holding divers lands *in capite*.

In 1370 sir Edmund de Thorpe, senior, was high sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk. In 1380 his manors, advowsons, and lands, in Ashwelthorpe, &c. were settled by feoffees on his son and others, paying him an annuity of 100l. per ann.

In 1381 sir Edmund de Thorpe, jun. knt. purchased divers messuages, &c. and several villains here. In 1383 he, and sir Richard de Waldegrave, knt. &c. had a grant of the temporalities of the bishop of Norwich, during the forfeiture of Henry Spencer, bishop of the see, except the knights fees, and advowsons of the churches, paying fifty marks yearly to the Exchequer; and in 1385 they had a writ directed to them to restore them to the bishop.

In 1393 sir Edmund de Thorpe, sen. died, and was buried by Beatrix, his wife, in the chancel at
Ashwelthorpe,

Ashwelthorpe, and gave five marks to *any one* that would take a pilgrimage for him to St. James the Apostle, and legacies to his tenants wherever he was lord; many rings, jewels, &c. to Joan, his wife, for life, and then to sir Edmund, his eldest son and heir; and particularly the murrey cup, tipped with silver, which is the *charter-cup* of Thorpe, was to go from heir to heir, to all that should be lords of Thorpe, of his blood, and three gold rings, set with oriental sapphires; he gave Edmund, his heir, all his goods in his manor-houses at Colkirke, with Appleton-hall, and Little Massingham; he ordered to be buried under a plain tomb, without funeral pomp; Joan, his widow, died at Colkirke, Feb. 1399, and was buried by her husband; and then sir Edmund de Thorpe, her son, held his first court here, and soon after put his estates into feoffees hands, upon his going beyond sea.

This sir Edmund new roofed and glazed the church and chancel at Ashwelthorpe, and founded Thorpe's chapel for his own burial place, and that of his successors, on the north side of the chancel; it was twenty-seven feet long, and twelve broad, within the walls. He was mayor of Bourdeaux, in Gascoign, in 1399.

In 1415 Joan lady Scales, wife of sir Edmund de Thorpe, jun. died, and was buried, by her order, in Ashwelthorpe church-yard, and gave 20l. to make her a tomb.

Thomas de Thorpe, esq.* second son of sir Edmund de Thorpe, senior, had Bunwell manor for life;

* In 1452 Thomas Thorpe, esq. speaker of the commons, was imprisoned, the commons petitioned for his liberty, according

life; in his will, dated 1414, it appears, that by Elizabeth, his wife, he had one daughter and heiress, named Eleanor; he gave 10*l.* as a stock to be always lent out to some person in Ashwelthorpe, the interest to be laid out in buying new altar-cloths, and ornaments for the chancel, in which it seems he was buried; he ordered Bunwell manor to go to Elizabeth, his wife, for life, then to his daughter and her heirs; the remainder to his nephew, John de Thorpe, and his heirs; but sir Edmund, his brother, was to have the preference, if he pleased to buy the manors.

In 1417 sir Edmund de Thorpe, &c. were appointed by Henry V. to treat of and compose all differences which arose from any violations of the truce between the duke of Burgoyne and that king: this sir Edmund is the same person whom Holingshed calls the lord Thorpe, who was killed at the siege of Lovers-castle, in Normandy, with the lords Scales and Darcy; but his body was brought over and buried in the new aisle of his own foundation, under a fair tomb, on which he lies in compleat armor, with his helmet under his head, and a crown and plume for his crest; his wife lies by him, with a pillow under her head; both the statues are of white alabaster, and lie under a wooden canopy. The arms of Thorpe, quartering Bainard, are cut on his armor; he hath a chaplet about his head, and a sword lying by his side, signifying, that though he lost his life in war, yet he obtained the victory; at his head an angel holds an inescutcheon of St. George; at her head the arms of France and England; at his feet a greyhound, and at her's a lap-dog. On the south side are four angels holding four shields, 1. Thorpe and Bainard quartered.

ing to their privileges; the lords would not consent, but ordered the commons to choose a new speaker.

quartered. 2. Northwood. 3. Clifton. 4. Barry. And on the north side are shields with the arms of Kerdeston, Calthorpe, &c.

Sir Edmund left two daughters his coheiresses; Joan was thrice married, and lastly to sir John Clifton, of Buckenham-castle, knt. but on failure of issue, according to the entail, the estate of the Thorpes vested in her sister, Isabel, who married Philip Tilney, of Boston, in Lincolnshire, esq. and they kept their first court in 1436; in which year (Nov. 6) she died, and lies interred under a marble, with a brass circumscription, in Thorpe chapel, with the arms of Tilney, impaling Thorpe, quartering Bainard, and her effigy.

After her death her husband retired from the world, took on him a religious habit, turned secular canon, and was admitted to St. Butolph's prebendary in Lincoln cathedral, where he was buried in 1453; the arms of Tilney, impaling Thorpe, quartering Bainard, are on his grave-stone there.

They had three daughters, and three sons: Frederick Tilney, of Boston, esq. the eldest son and heir, who inherited all the estate; he married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Laurence Cheney, of Cambridgeshire, esq. and had only one daughter, Elizabeth, who married sir Humphrey Bouchier, knt. eldest son of John lord Berners; he was slain at Barnet-field, on the part of Edward IV. April 14, 1471, in the life-time of his father, and was buried in St. Edmund's chapel, in Westminster-abbey, under a tomb of grey marble raised, and on it is curiously engraved, on brass plates, the effigy of sir Humphry, armed cap-a-pee, his head on his helm, with a crest, and

and his feet supported, the one by a leopard, and the other by an eagle, with the arms of Bouchier*, quartering Billete, impaling Tilney, Roos, Thorpe, Bainard, &c. and an inscription.

Elizabeth, his wife, was a widow in 1470; but before 1472 she was married again to Thomas, son and heir of John lord Howard, knt. afterwards earl of Surrey, and duke of Norfolk; and in 1506, November 6, by the name of Elizabeth duchess of Norfolk, she made her last will, by which she was buried in the nuns choir of the Minories, without Aldgate, London. The duke survived her, and held the manors, by the courtesy of England, to his death, in 1524, when he was buried in the priory church of Thetford, commonly called Thetford-abbey.

Sir John Bouchier, knt. son and heir of sir Humphry, and grandson and heir of John lord Berners, was summoned to parliament as lord Berners in the 11th and 12th of Henry VII. and in the 1st, 3d, 6th, and 21st of Henry VIII. and died deputy general of the town and marches of Calais, March 19, 1532, in the 23d of Henry VIII. He ordered his body to be buried in the chancel of St. Mary's church at Calais, and after the decease of his lady, gave his manors of Houghton, Offley, and Doxley, in Hertfordshire, to satisfy the king for 500l. sterling, that was due to his majesty, and the overplus of their value was to go to perform his will, &c. He married Catherine, daughter of John Howard, duke of Norfolk, who survived him, and died March 12, in the 27th

* He was made knight of the bath at the coronation of Edward IV.

in the 27th of Henry VIII. 1535. This lord Berners, in the 18th of Edward IV. was made knight of the bath at the marriage of the duke of York, second son of Edward IV. with the daughter and heiress of the duke of Norfolk. In the 7th of Henry VIII. he was retained to serve that king with two spearmen, himself of the number, each having his custrel (a servant to a man of arms, or a prince's life-guard-man) and page, and nine demi-lances on horseback, in order to an expedition into France; and accordingly, Oct. 1, the king took shipping at Sandwich, and the same day landed at Calais with a large army, and laid siege to Boulogne till Nov. 8, when a peace was made, to which all the peers consented, and among them this John lord Berners. In 1495 he assented to a peace made with France on the sea, near Boulogne. In 1513 he had the king's letters of protection, being made Captain of the pioneers at the siege of Therovene. In the 6th of Henry VIII. he was made chancellor of the exchequer for life; and that year attended lady Mary, the king's sister, into France, to her marriage with Lewis XII.

In the 19th of Henry VIII. he obtained a grant from the king of the inheritance of the manors and advowsons of several towns in Surrey, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, and Hampshire, with all the knights fees belonging to them. It is also observable that this John lord Berners was a person so eminent for his learning, that by the command of Henry VIII. he translated the Chronicle of sir John Froisart out of French into English: he likewise translated several other works out of French, Spanish, and Italian, as "The Life of sir Arthur, an Armorican knight," "The famous Exploits of Hugh of Bourdeaux,"
" Marcus

“ Marcus Aurelius,” and “ The Castle of Love.”— Besides which he composed a book, “ Of the Duties of the Inhabitants of Calais,” and a comedy, intitled “ *Ite in Vineam.*” He had issue only two daughters, Mary, married to Alexander Unton, esq. son and heir of sir Thomas Unton, of Wadley, in Berkshire, knt. to whom she was first wife, but died without issue, and Jane, her sister, by her death, became sole heiress to her father. She married Edmund Knevet, esq. serjeant-porter to Henry VIII. who became lord and patron of Ashwelthorpe, and owner of the Thorpe’s estate; he was second son of Edmund Knevet, esq. of Buckenham-castle, and settled at Ashwelthorpe-hall, and had, in his wife’s right, all the manors in Suffolk, the Isle of Ely, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, and in Norfolk, belonging to that family, except the six last manors sold by lord Berners. He was constituted receiver of the revenues of the king’s demesnes in Denbighshire, and dying in 1546 was buried in the chapel adjoining to Ashwelthorpe chancel. Jane, his widow, died in 1561, and was buried by her husband. In the said chapel is a grey marble with a brass plate, and an inscription, *obijt* Feb. 17, 1561.

John Knevet, esq. of Plumstead, their eldest son and heir, died in his mother’s life-time; in 1537 he married Agnes, daughter of sir John Harcourt, of Stanton-Harcourt, in Oxfordshire, knt. she died in 1579, and sir Thomas Knevet, of Ashwelthorpe, her eldest son and heir, succeeded, and in the year 1616, having petitioned the king for the barony of Berners, descended to him from Jane, his grandmother, he obtained a certificate (upon a reference of his petition by James I. to the lords commissioners for the office of earl marshal) of his right
and

and title to the said barony, but died the 9th of February following, before he could obtain the king's confirmation thereof; he was knighted by queen Elizabeth in her progress into Norfolk; in 1579 he was high sheriff of the county; his will was proved in 1617, by which it appears, that Thomas Knevet, esq. his grand-child, was his heir; Abigail Mundeford, Katherine Paston, and Muriel Bell, were his three daughters; Elizabeth Ashfield was his sister, and had a daughter, named Abigail; he was buried at Ashwelthorpe, February 9, 1617. He married Muriel*, daughter of sir Thomas Parry, knt. master of the court of wards and liveries, and treasurer of the household to queen Elizabeth, sister and coheirefs of sir Thomas Parry, of Welford, in Berkshire, knt. chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and ambassador leidgee in France, in the time of queen Elizabeth; He died April 26, 1616, and was buried here.

An elegy, wrote in the highest zest of panegyric, to this lady's memory, by a Mr. Oliver Johnson, of Norwich, begins thus:

*Here Norfolk's wonder lies, a Phoenix right,
Who might be term'd for her good deeds so many;
In doing good who took her chief delight,
Not caring for vain pleasure momentary, &c.*

This sir Thomas was a man of great repute, and much beloved for his hospitality and good nature, for which he was eminent, as the following ballad, containing an incredible story, (the tradition of which still remains) fully declares.

B The

* This Muriel brought to the Knevets the moiety of sir Thomas Parry's estate.

The BALLAD of ASHWELTHORPE,

Made in Sir Thomas Knevet's time.

Once there liv'd a man,
Deny it they that can,
Who liberal was to the poor;
I dare boldly fay,
They ne'er were sent away
Empty handed from his door.

When misers in holes crept,
Then open house he kept;
Where many then did resort;
Some for love of good beer,
And others for good cheer,
And others for to make sport.

There was a gentleman,
From London city came,
The country for to see;
And all in the prime,
Of jovial Christmas time,
There merry for to be.

This Londoner did fay,
If the gentry would give way,
That a trick to them he'd shew,
That an acorn he would set,
If they would please to ha't,
Which to a great tree should grow.

The acorn he pull'd out,
And shewed it all about,
In his hand then he took it again,
In the presence of them all,
In the middle of the hall,
He sat down the acorn plain.

While

While one could drink a cup,
 There did an *oak* spring up,
 Which was so huge and tall,
 With arms it so put out,
 And branches all about,
 That it almost fill'd the hall.

This oak then did bear,
 Which was a thing most rare,
 Acorns, both black and brown;
 For which the swine did busk,
 And they did loose their husk,
 As they came tumbling down.

This great oak there did stand,
 To the view of every man
 Who saw, it was so plain;
 But room then to afford,
 To bring supper unto board,
 They wish'd it gone again.

Then loudly he did call,
 And two came into the hall,
 Who were both stout and strong;
 And with the tools they had,
 To work they went like mad,
 And laid this oak along.

I'll tell you here no lie,
 The chips there then did fly,
 Buzzing about like flies,
 That men were forced to ward,
 Their faces well to guard,
 For fear they shou'd lose their eyes.

He bid them then be bold,
 And ev'ry one take hold,
 This oak for to carry away;
 And they all hold did get,
 But cou'd not stir't a whit,
 But still along it lay.

He said they had no strength,
 Which he would prove at length,
 For it should not lie long on the floor;
 Two gossings, young and green,
 They then came whewting in,
 And carried it out of the door.

Then gone was the oak,
 That had so many a stroke,
 Before that it fell down;
 Thus as it grew in haste,
 So quickly did it waste,
 Not a chip then cou'd be found.

This story—*is very true*,
 Which I have told to you,
 'Tis a wonder you didn't hear it;
 I'll lay a pint of wine,
 If Parker, and old Hind,
 Were alive, that they would *swear* it.

Sir Thomas Knevet, of Ashwelthorpe, and Thornage, knt. eldest son and heir of sir Thomas Knevet, the elder, and Muriel Parry, his wife, died in Sept. 1605, in the life-time of his father, and was buried in St. Mary's church, at Feltwell, September 20; he was knighted at the charter-house, May 11, 1603, by James I. In 1592 he married Elizabeth, second daughter

daughter and coheirefs of fir Nathaniel Bacon, of Stifkey, knight of the bath, who furvived him.

Thomas Knevet, of Afhwelthorpe, efq. their fon, was baptized June 10, 1596, and inherited at the death of his grandfather. In 1625 he was fummoued to receive the honor of knight of the bath at the coronation of Charles I. He died at Henham-hall, in Suffolk, the feat of his fon in-law, fir John Rous, knight and baronet, and was buried at Afhwelthorpe July 2. 1658, with this on a black marble grave-ftone, in Thorpe chapel:

*Here lies loyal Knyvet, who hated anarchy,
Lived a true Proteftant, and died with monarchy.
Obijt Junij 30, 1658.*

On this ftone are the arms of Knevet, quartering Bouchier, and Bouchier quartering Berners. He married Catherine, fourth and youngelt daughter of Thomas lord Burgh, of Gainfborough, fifter and coheirefs of Thomas lord Burgh, her brother, who died under age; ſhe was buried at Afhwelthorpe May 1, 1646, leaving two fons, John and Thomas.

Sir John Knevet, of Afhwelthorpe, their eldeft fon, was made knight of the bath at the coronation of Charles II. he married Mary, daughter of fir Thomas Bedingfield, of Darſham, in Suffolk, knt. in 1655, and fettled on her the manors and advowfons of Afhwelthorpe, Wrenningham, &c. In 1662 he was appointed by Horatio lord Townfhend one of the deputy lieutenants for the county, and dying June 28, 1673, was interred without any ſolemnity in the eaſt end of that chapel, in the church of Afhwelthorpe, belonging to his family, where there is a ftone with his creſt and arms, and a Latin infcription.

He gave a handsome set of communion-plate to the altar, and was high sheriff of Norfolk in 1682.

Mary, his wife, survived him, and dying April 18, 1713, aged 80 years, was interred in the vault of Ashwelthorpe chancel, by her husband's body, with an inscription stone; she left two sons and five daughters:

1. Thomas Knevet, esq. of Ashwelthorpe, eldest son and heir, was colonel of a regiment of militia in the county of Norfolk, died unmarried, and was buried by his father, under a marble, October 4, 1693, aged 37.

2. John Knevet, esq. was captain of a foot company in the service of William III. and died at Lisburne, in Ireland, unmarried, Feb. 15, 1659, and was buried in the church there.

1. Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, married Thomas Glemham, esq. of Glemham-Parva, in Suffolk, where they were buried. They had one child, Thomas, who survived his parents, and was captain of a company of dragoons under brigadier Pepper, in Spain, in the service of queen Ann, and died unmarried about 1711, at Valladolid, and was buried there.

2. Catherine, who by the death of all her brothers and sisters without issue became sole heiress; she married, first, John Harris, of London, gent. by whom she had no issue; secondly, Richard Buckenham, of Weston-Market, esq. high sheriff of Suffolk, by whom she had no issue. In 1720, she being wife to the said Richard, claimed the barony of Berners, and after a hearing in the house of lords, their
lordships

lordships were of opinion, " That she had fully proved her claim to the said barony of Berners, in fee, and had a right to the said barony in fee; and accordingly, by his majesty's command, she was allowed to be Catherine baroness Berners, by descent from John Bouchier, lord Berners, who was first summoned to parliament by writ, dated May 26, in the 33d of Henry VI." She died December 3, 1743, and was buried at Weston, by her husband, aged 89.

3. Mary, died unmarried, October 29, 1710, aged 47, and is buried at Ashwelthorpe, under a marble grave-stone, with Knevet's arms in a lozenge.

4. Jane, married Oliver le Neve, esq. of Great Witchingham, but died before her husband, without issue, June 19, 1704, and is buried under a black marble in the chancel of Great Witchingham, *obijt 19 Junij, anno salutis nostræ 1704.*

5. Muriel, died unmarried, and is buried in the chapel here; she died Sept. 8, 1688.

This branch being thus extinguished, the barony and estate descended to the heirs of Thomas Knevet, esq. of Mutford, in Suffolk, second surviving son, but third son born, of Thomas Knevet, esq. eldest son and heir of sir Thomas Knevet, of Ashwelthorpe, who died in the life-time of his father.

John Knevet, of Norwich, esq. only son and heir of Thomas Knevet, esq. of Mutford, married Lucy, daughter and coheiress of Charles Suckling, esq. of Bracondale, who are both dead, and lie buried at Trowse; they had five sons and three daughters; the sons all died without issue. The daughters were,

1. Elizabeth Knevet, married Henry Wilton, esq. of Didlington, in the hundred of South Greenhoe, who was buried first at Trowse, but since removed to Ashwelthorpe; she lived his widow, and was in possession of the manors of Ashwelthorpe, Wrenningham, Fundenhall, and Hapton, by the will of the late lady Berners, with the advowsons of Ashwelthorpe and Wrenningham, and had two sons, and one daughter, living.—Mrs. Wilton, who was the representative of the ancient and honorable family of the Knevetts, died August 21, 1757. aged 65, and is succeeded in estate by Henry William Wilton, esq. of Didlington, the present lord and patron.

2. Lucy Knevet, now dead, married, first, Mr. Thomas Holt, by whom she had a daughter, named Elizabeth Ann; secondly, John Field, carpenter, at Reading, in Berkshire, by whom she had two daughters, Lucy and Catherine.

3. Catherine Knevet, who died young; so that now the barony* of Berniers, or Berners, is in abeyance, both the sisters having surviving issue.

The church hath a square tower, and four bells, a nave, chancel, and north chapel. There is a handsome stone font, erected by Thomas Knevet, esq. and Katherine Burgh, his wife; it is an octagon, and
hath

* Journal of the house of lords, *die Martis*, 19 *die Martij*, 1694. “The heralds being this day heard at the bar, pursuant to an order of the 16th instant, in relation to descents of baronies by writ, and debate thereupon, &c. this question was put; Whether, if a person summoned to parliament by writ, and sitting *die*, leaving issue two or more daughters, who all *die*, one of them only leaving issue, such issue has a right to demand a summons to parliament? It was resolved in the affirmative.”

hath eight shields; 1. Thorpe; 2. Tilney impaling Thorpe; 3. Bouchier impaling Tilney; 4. Knevet impales Bouchier; 5. Knevet impaling Harcourt; 6. Knevet impales Parry, *alias* Vaughan; 7. Knevet and Bacon; 8. Knevet and Burgh. In the east window of the chapel, quarterly, France and England; Scales impaling Northwood; Burgh in the garter; Thorpe and Bainard quartered. In the east chancel window, Thorpe and Bainard. In the belfry window, Bainard impaled with lozenge, erm. and gul. In the other windows, lord Morley. Northwood with the crest; and Aslack.

On a black marble, Knevet with a crescent;—*Deposita Nathanielis Knevet, armigeri, qui obiit 15 die Nov. A. D. 1695.*—He was son of sir Thomas Knevet, knt.

In the east window are the remains of a knight in armor, kneeling at an altar-tomb, and Knevet and Clifton quartered by him, with a crescent; against him is a woman kneeling, in the dress of that age, with the said quarters in a lozenge, impaling or. a fess sab. surmounted by a saltire gul. and there was a picture of it at Ashwelthorpe, which we take to have been erected either to the memory of that sir John Knevet who married Joan, daughter and heiress of sir John Boutetort, of Mendlesham, in Suffolk, knt. or rather of sir John, his son, and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of sir Constantine Clifton, of Buckenham-castle, knt. who was buried in Wymondham-abbey church, Sept. 1551.

The rectory is valued in the king's books at 6l. 13s. 4d. and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 30l it is discharged of first-fruits and tenths, and is capable of augmentation.

The

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and when Norwich Doomſday-book was made, ſir Robert Fitz-John was patron. The rector had a houſe and ten acres of glebe, and it was valued at nine marks. The terrier hath a houſe and about eight acres of glebe. The church of Aſhwell is down, and immemorially annexed to Thorpe. There is weekly ſervice here.

The village hath about twenty families, and it paid to each tenth 26s. clear. The etymology of its name is, "The Thorpe by the well, or fountain at the aſhes." Here was a guild of the Holy Trinity. In 1504 the tenor bell was made by the contribution of Sarah Sawyer, and others.

In 1298 Philip de Thorpe, rector, brother to ſir John de Thorpe, patron, was buried under a ſtone, with a croſs only on it, on the north ſide of the altar.

John Snetel, of Wymondham, rector, was buried in the church porch in 1420.

John Brown, rector, died December 27, 1593, and was buried here.

John Hariſon, A. M. returned anſwer in 1603 that he had ninety-one communicants in this pariſh.

In 1728 the Rev. John Browne, rector, had it of the gift of Catherine baroneſs Berners; and in 1775 the Rev. Francis Leighton was preſented to the rectory of Aſhwelthorpe by Henry William Wilſon, eſq. lord and patron.

From

From the parish register, in 1485, Thomas Longe, of Ashwelthorpe, went to the king's host at Nottingham. *Regr. Caston fol. 252.* By which it seems he was a person of distinction here.

ASLACTON, *alias* HASKTON, OSLACTUNA, or OSLAC'S TOWN, and ESTINGTON, commonly called ASLINGTON, was a berewic to the manor of Forncet, was a league long, and half as much broad, and paid 9d. to the gelt. Here was a focman, who held six acres, belonging to Alan earl of Richmond, and passed afterwards with the manor, which was granted from Forncet when Roger Bigot infeoffed William de Verdon, in the time of William II. and it remained in the Verdons till Vido de Verdon gave it in marriage with his eldest daughter, Alice, to Nicholas de Bruneste, who was to hold it of Verdon at one fee; and Nicholas gave it with Oriel, or Muriel, his daughter, in marriage to Walter Malet, and their heirs.

In 1263 John de Vaux had a grant for a weekly market, and yearly fair here, now disused, and for free-warren, by patent from Henry III.

In 1309 William De-la-Park, of Ilketeshall, in Suffolk, (from whom the manor took the name of Park's) and his parceners, held the manor of sir John Verdon, and he of the earl Marshall, in right of Elizabeth, his wife; and in this family it continued till Joan Park, the sole heiress of the family, inherited it; she first married John Duke, esq. of Brampton, in Suffolk, by whom she had issue; secondly, John Strange, esq. of Norwich, who released all right in this manor, &c. to Thomas Duke, and his heirs.

Ambrose

Ambrose Duke, of Brampton, died in 1609 seised of the manors of Park's here, Wacton, and Heddenham, &c. leaving them to his son, Edward, who married Catherine, daughter of sir Thomas Holland, of Wortwell-hall, knt. and in 1631, by the name of Edward Duke of Benhall, esq. sold the manor to sir William Platers, of Billingsford, &c. in trust for sir William le Neve, knt. This branch of the le Neves descended from Jeffry le Neve, of Tivetshall, whose son, Laurence, settled at Aflacton, where he was buried, May 17, 1587.

Sir William le Neve was educated at Caius College, in Cambridge; created herald by the title of Mowbray, June 29, 1694; soon after made York heraid; afterwards norroy; and at last clarencieux, and knighted. In 1643 he was sent by Charles I. the day before the battle of Edgehill, to the parliament army under the earl of Essex, with a proclamation of pardon to such as would lay down their arms; but when he offered to read it aloud in the earl's presence, and to deliver the effect of it, that he might be heard of those that were present, the earl rebuked him with some roughness, and charged him, as he loved his life, not to presume to speak a word to the soldiers, for obeying which command he was very uneasy ever after. He died unmarried, at Hoxton, near London, Aug. 15, 1661; and John le Neve, his brother, being dead before him, without issue, in 1630, the manor and his estate went to the heirs of his uncle, Jeffry le Neve, of Aflacton, who married Margaret, daughter of Robert Burcham, of Aflacton, by whom he had four sons; 1. Jeffry the eldest, who released to his second brother, William le Neve, clerk of Aflacton; he had two wives, and Laurence le Neve, his eldest son and heir, was
lord

lord here in 1697; he was then married, but had no issue; and his brother, Rich. le Neve, was unmarried in 1699; after this the manor was purchased by the Buxtons, by the name of Aflacton's, Park's, or le Neve's manor, in Aflacton, the free rents being 1*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.* per ann. and the copyhold rents 8*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* q. and John Buxton, esq. of Chanons, in Tibbenham, and Shadwell-Lodge, is the present lord, as also of William's manor*, in Aflacton, and Forncet, the quit rents of which are only 4*s.* 7*d.* a year.

The PRIORY MANOR was given to the prior of Thetford by Roger Bigot, their founder, together with the advowson of the church, and it remained in that monastery till its dissolution in 1540, when it was given with that house to the duke of Norfolk, and continued in that family till 1561, and then was sold to Charles le Grice, of Brockdish, and John Tiler, who in 1564 settled it on John River, and Christopher Thetford; and in 1572 Andrew Thetford had it. In 1574, after Charles le Grice's death, it was granted to Andrew Mansfield, of Norwich, gent. whose daughter, Susan, was married to the said Charles, who died seised, and devised it to pay his debts; it was sold to Thetford, and by him, in 1598, to the Buxton's, in which family it now remains, John Buxton, esq. being lord.

The quit-rents are 4*l.* 13*s.* per ann. and the fines of this, and Park's manor, are at the will of the lord.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, and was given by Roger Bigot to the priory of Thetford,

* This was part of William's manor in Tacolneston, which which was not granted by the earl of Arundel to the Clere's with it, but to the Buxtons soon after.

Thetford, of his foundation, to which it was appropriated, and no vicarage endowed, but was served as it is now, by a parish chaplain, or curate, it being a donative in the gift and nomination of the impropiator. There was a rectory-house, and two carucates of glebe; it was first valued at ten, and afterwards at twelve marks.

The prior was taxed for his spirituals at twelve marks, and paid 16s. to every tenth, and for his temporals at 7l. 7s. 3d.

In 1603 the perpetual curate here returned answer, that there were 120 communicants, and that this town paid 16s. to every tenth. There are now (Blomefield) about thirty families, and weekly service, the salary being 20l. per ann.

The impropriation always attended the priory manor, and was left by Laurence le Neve, gent. to Reuben Gilman, of Loddon, and his heirs; and he at his death gave it to his younger brother, Mr. John Gilman.

The nave, south aile, and south porch, are leaded, the chancel tiled; the steeple is round, and hath five bells.

In the south aile, le Neve impaling Aldham;—
For William le Neve, gent. 1609.

A tomb-stone by the altar,—*For John le Neve, obiit 24 die Nov. anno Dom. 1559.*

Laurence le Neve died June 29, 1724, *ætat.* 74. He tied ten acres of land in Aflacton to pay to the parish officers 20s. per ann. to be given to the poor.

Here

Here are only two small cottages belonging to the parish.

In the chancel window is the picture of an infant in swadling clothes, lying in a cradle, which, according to tradition, represents an orphan so left at the church-stile; this orphan was brought up by the parish, and from the town was called Aflac, and became a man of renown, being standard-bearer to Edward III. he is said to have married the daughter of sir Oliver Calthorpe, knt. of Burnham-Thorpe, and this window is adorned with these arms: 1. Calthorpe and Strange. 2. Warren and ditto. 3. Bovile and ditto. 4. Mautby and ditto. 5. Mautby and Clifton. 6. Lord Grey, of Ruthyn, and Calthorpe. 7. Calthorpe and Withe. 8. Brewse and Calthorpe. 9. Breton and ditto. 10. Pierpoint and ditto. 11. Pierpoint and Ufford. 12. Stapleton and Ufford. 13. Aflac and Calthorpe. 14. Argentein and Calthorpe. 15. Calthorpe and Bacon. 16. Burgulion and Calthorpe. 17. Burgulion and Kerdeston. 18. Burgulion and Mautby.

In 1467 the impropriator sold the tithes for ever of two inclosures in Aflacton; one close contains 30 acres, and lies near Chanons Wood; the other contains twelve acres and half a rood, called Overhage, or Over-House Wong, on condition of paying 8s. 4d. every Lammas-day, viz. 5s. for the thirty acres, and 3s. 4d. for the twelve acres, &c.

Thomas Blofield, curate here, was sequestered in the late rebellion.—*Blomefield.*

In 1768 the Rev. Charles Carver had this curacy by sequestration.

BUNWELL,

BUNWELL, *alias* BULLWELL. This town is not so much as once called by this name in Doomsday-book, but that of *Hadeflan*, or the holy-stone, from some remarkable stone cross erected there; but it soon after came to be called by the name of Bunwell, which was a hamlet belonging to it; Bunwell signifies *Fons Rivuli*, or the rivulet's head, and accordingly the situation of the place answers it, for that part of the town which is distinguished by this name from the other manors, hath the fountain, or head of a small rivulet arising in it; which passing southwards, is called Bunwell-beck, running at the entrance into Tacolneston common, and thence by Stanhowe-bridge* to Aslahton and Forncet.

This town comprehends several villas, berewics, or lesser hamlets, mentioned in the stile of the courtbaron, and which now are the several manors, viz. Bunwell, Haddeston, Bosevil's, Perishall, and Banyard's, all which are in the bounds of this parish; and besides these, the stile of the court runs, "Carleton, Tibbenham, *cum Membris*," all which lie in the parishes of Tibbenham and Carleton.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, and had thirty acres of glebe belonging to it at the conquest, when there were three manors, to each of which a part of the advowson belonged; but Roger Fitz-Peter Fitz-Osbert bought a part of Walkeline de Bosevile, so that he had one moiety, and sir Robert Banyard the other.

When Norwich Doomsday-book was made Robert Fitz-Osborn was patron, and the rector had a house and forty acres of glebe; it was first valued at twenty marks

* That is, the bridge at the Stoney-hill.

marks, afterwards at thirty, without the portion; and the portion of the prior of Lewes was first laid at six, and after at ten marks, and consisted of two-third parts of the great tithes of all the demesnes of Bosevile's manor, which were given to the monks of Castle Acre, (a cell to Lewes, in Suffex) by Walkeline de Bosevile, and his lady, and the bishop of Norwich confirmed the agreement made by the judges assigned by the pope for this purpose, on a suit between the monks of Acre, and Alan de Beccles, rector here, that the rector and his successors should for ever receive all the tithes of all the demesnes and tenants of Bosevile's manor, paying to Castle Acre convent 30d. every Easter, and 30d. every Michaelmas, which is paid at this day by the rector, to the duke of Norfolk, in right of the dissolved monastery of Castle Acre, which was granted to his family at the dissolution. The portion of Sees monastery was first taxed at 10s. afterwards at 13s. 4d. then by composition between the monastery and rector reduced to 6s. 8d. pension, which is also paid by the rector at this time, to the aforesaid Duke. The town paid clear to each tenth 5l. 6s. 8d. it stands thus in the king's books: 17l. Bunwell, *alias* Bullwell rectory; 1l. 14s. yearly tenths; and not being discharged, is capable of augmentation. The spirituals of the prior of St. Olave were one mark, his temporals 3s. and the temporals of the prior of Buckenham were 4s. 11d.

The presentation to this living was alternate in the college of Mettingham and the de Greys, of Merton. The college had it by gift of sir Roger de Norwich, knt.

In 1541 sir Robert Codde, chaplain to the bishop of Norwich, and master of St. Giles's hospital
C there,

there, was presented by Thomas Codde, the famous mayor of Norwich, in 1549, who had this turn of Edmund Grey, esq. and in 1547 Anthony Denney, esq. one of the privy council, was patron, in right of his manor of Perfe-hall, late belonging to the dissolved college of Mettingham.

In 1555 John Porye, D. D. fellow of Stoke-Clare and Bennet colleges, rector of Landbeach, and this year vicar of St. Stephen's, Norwich; prebend of the second stall in Ely cathedral; in January 1559 being made rector of Lambeth and prebendary of Westminster, he quitted Ely, and in 1564 this church*.

In 1603 the rector returned answer that there were 240 communicants in this parish, and that Mr. Grey, and Mr. Denney, were patrons by turns.

In 1750 the Rev. John Buxton was presented to this rectory by the late Robert Buxton, esq. of Tibbenham, and Shadwell Lodge.

The church is a neat lightsome building, having a nave only, which, with the south porch, is covered with lead; the chancel is tiled, and hath a decayed vestry on the north side; the tower is square, is a neat structure, and was finished about 1520.

In

* In 1563 he leased out the parsonage for six years to William Tolp, in consideration of his repairing the house, and paying the arrears of tenths; and the bishop confirmed it.—And thus, when nothing was to be got, he resigned it the next year. A bad example to posterity! that a man thus laden with preferment should be permitted to make such a lease, instead of repairing it himself; and as bad in relation to that bishop who confirmed such a proceeding.

In 1505 William Taylor, of Haddeston, a hamlet of Bunwell, was buried in the church-yard, and bequeathed "Toward the making of the stepill of "Bonewell every yere whan the masons work upon "it, 6s. 8d. till the sum of 33s. 4d. be paid."

In 1724, November 15, the widow Richards was buried here, aged one hundred and eleven years.

In the chancel, on the north side, is a stone for *Mr. John Blake, Aug. 21, 1686, ætat. 64*—and the arms of Blake.

Sir Simon Socelye had a pension granted him out of the revenues of Mettingham college, in this town, by Henry VIII. we suppose he was one of the last fellows there; he was buried here in August, 1555. Mr. Andrews, the prince's servant, had another pension, but he was buried here soon after the grant.

On a stone towards the east corner——*To Charles, son of James Baldwin, rector of this parish, obiit June 6, 1733, ætat. 7.*

In 1479 John Bukke purchased eight acres and one rood freehold in Springfield, in Bunwell, and by will, dated in 1497, gave it for ever to the parish of Bunwell, to help the poor in discharging the king's task, and other charges when they fall; he was buried at Bunwell, gave 35s. to adorn our Lady's tabernacle, and the hearse of the sepulchre of our Lord in the church. These are town lands at this day. Several other gifts of this kind were made by well-disposed persons.

HADESTON, BAINARD'S, or BANYARD'S-HALL, in Hadeſton, was the principal manor in this town, and belonged to Torn, a Dane, in the Confessor's time, and at the Conqueror's ſurvey Gaoferid, or Godeſide, held it under Ralph Bainard; at the firſt ſurvey it was worth 5l. a year, and at the ſecond 10l. 12s. There were at the firſt ſurvey eighteen freemen, reduced to twelve at the ſecond, and they were worth 28s. in yearly rents paid to the manor; the whole town was four miles and one furlong long, and two miles and fifteen perches broad, and paid 9d. to the gelt.

As this manor for the moſt part paſſed with the manor of Merton, till Thomas de Grey, eſq. the preſent lord of Merton, fold it with the moiety of the advowſon to the Buxtons, who joined it to their other manors here, we need only refer you to the account of Merton for the biography of the family.

Robert Bainard gave two parts of the tithes of this manor to the monks of Lewes; Fulk Bainard held it at one fee of Robert Fitz-Walter, as of his manor of Hemenhale, and confirmed his father's grant to the monks of Lewes. The prior paid 28s. every twenty weeks for caſtle-guard to Baynard caſtle, for Merton, and this manor, and had aſſize of bread and ale, and waif, belonging to it.

In 1371 ſir Roger Grey, of Merton, knt. ordered his feoffees to ſell this manor to raiſe portions for his two daughters; and accordingly they in 1389 fold it for 200 marks to Thomas duke of Glouceſter, and his heirs; and in 1303 the ſaid duke of Glouceſter obtained a royal licence to ſettle an annuity of ten marks a year on the abbey of

of Walden, but the settlement was never completed.

In 1398 Richard II. granted it to Edmund de Langley, duke of York, as part of the possessions of the duke of Gloucester, attainted; it afterwards belonged to John Stuckley, in right of his wife, Philippa, daughter and heiress of John Mohun, lord of Dunster, widow of Edmund Platagenet, son and heir of Edmund of Langley, duke of York, but was afterwards repurchased by Thomas Grey, clerk.

In 1536 the manor of Whitwell-hall, in Skeyton, and in 1543 Vauce's manor, in Easton, were held as the manor of Bainard's-hall, in Bunwell; as was also Burnet's manor, in Giffing.

In 1566 Robert Grey held this manor of the earl of Suffex, as of his manor of Attleburgh, by one fee: and in 1742 the quit-rents of the manor of Bainard's-hall, in Hadelton, were 22l. 14s. 4d. q. a year.

The ancient Bainards, upon losing their barony of Bainard's-castle, for rebellion against Henry I. had it given from them to the ancestors of the Fitz-Walters; but this manor being granted to a younger branch before the forfeiture, it was never forfeited, though these Bainards bear their arms differing only in colour from the Fitz-Walters, their chief lords, as the Fitz-Walters did from the Clare family, whence they descended, from whose arms they only varied by a fess between two chevrons, instead of three chevrons, borne by the earls of Clare; and in like manner the Cornherds, or Cornerths, in imitation of the Bainards, their capital and chief lords, bear the same arms, only varied in colour, and often quarter-

ed them with the Bainards; but when sir Thomas de Grey, knt. married the heiress of sir Richard de Cornherd, knt. he laid aside the paternal coat of Grey, and he and all his descendents always used Cornherd's as his own, except Thomas de Grey, clerk, who always bore the ancient family arms of de Grey with a mullet; ever since their son, sir Thomas de Grey, knt. married Isabel, daughter and coheiress of Fulk Bainard, of Merton, the Greys bear Bainard quartered with Cornerth.

HADDESTON, FITZ-OSBERT'S, PETER'S-HALL, PERRER'S, commonly called PERSE-HALL MANOR, in Bunwell, took its name from Peter Fitz-Osbert, its lord. Ailwin of Thetford was lord of it in the time of Edward the Confessor, and Robert de Curzon held it of Roger Bigot at the Conqueror's survey.

The church had thirty acres of glebe, two acres and an half of meadow, and half a carucate; the soc, or superior jurisdiction over the manor, belonged jointly to the king and the earl; and the manor in the first survey was valued at 40s. and afterwards at 70s. but as it passed with Carleton manor to Walter de Norwich, we need not repeat it, but refer you thither; it was held of the earl Marshal at one fee, and had free-warren allowed in *cire* to Roger Fitz-Osbert, its lord.

In 1287 sir Walter de Norwich being seised, left it to sir John, his son, who confirmed it for life to Catherine, his mother, and after her decease to the master and chaplains of the college of St. Mary at Raveningham, of his own foundation, to whom he gave his castle at Mettingham, in Suffolk, to which he ordered them to translate their college, or chantry, and

and his own and ancestors bones; he gave them part of his estate to increase the number of their fellows from eight to thirteen; he first founded them at Raveningham in 1342, translated them in 1350 to Norton-Subcors; and in 1394 they removed and fixed their college at Mettingham.

John le Neve, the last master of Raveningham chantry at Norton-Subcors, became lord of this manor, and patron of the mediety. In 1530 Thomas Manning, suffragan-bishop of Ipswich, was chosen; he was the last master.

This college was granted with the revenues thereto belonging to the Denneys. It was afterwards purchased by the Buxtons, with the moiety of the advowson, and joined to their manor of Carleton-Rode, &c. The quit-rents in 1742 were 19l. 14s. per annum.

In the windows of Perse-hall are these arms:—Sab. a saltyr arg. Crest on a wreath O. G. a bunch of wheat ears. Do. impaling arg. a fess lozenge gul. in chief three eagles heads erased sab.

HADESTON, BOSEVILE'S MANOR, belonged to Osborn at the Confessor's survey, and to Roger Fitz-Renard at the Conqueror's; in Osborn's time it was worth 20s. and in Roger's 40s. Fitz-Renard's issue assumed the name of Hadeſton, and William de Hadeſton, lord here, held it of the earl Warren, as did William, his son, who died young, and without issue, leaving his sisters his heiresses, who all released their rights in 1198 to Agatha de Hadeſton, their sister, who the year following married Walkeline de Bosevile; he became possessed of the whole manor, held at one fee of the earl Warren, in which family

it continued. In 1403 sir Robert Noon had it. In 1417 sir Henry Noon, knt. and after him sir John Heydon, who died seised in 1479, when he held it of Mortimer's manor of Attleburgh; he was succeeded by Henry Heydon, esq. his son, who held it with the manors of Buckenham and Rodehall, in Carleton-Rode. In 1570 they belonged to sir Christopher Heydon, and were left by him to James Hobart, sir Christopher being bound thereto by the grand-father of the said James.

In 1588 it appears by a survey then made, that James Hobart, jun. esq. was lord of the several manors of Hadeston, Bosewell's, Rodehall, Buckenham's, Whitwell's, and Laund's, all which were joined, their court being kept at Bunwell, and the stile of the court was, Bunwell, Carleton, and Tibbenham *cum Membris*, the two first being in Bunwell, the two second in Carleton, and the two last in Tibbenham; the whole rents were about 44l. per ann. they belonged to John Buxton, esq. of Channons, in Tibbenham, in 1623, and after him to Robert Buxton, whose son, Robert Buxton, esq. had them, who was succeeded by John Buxton, esq. father of Robert Buxton, esq. whose son, John Buxton, esq. of Shadwell-Lodge, is the present lord of all the manors in this town, and sole patron of this church.

THORPE'S MANOR, in Bunwell, was originally part of Fitz-Osbert's manor, which was separated by Roger Fitz-Peter Fitz-Osbert, who settled half a fee here on Sarah, his first wife; she died in 1285, and sir John de Thorpe, of Ashwelthorpe, knt. was one of her cousins and heirs, and had this allotted to his share, and obtained liberty of free-warren to it of Edward I. In 1324 he held it of Bainard's manor by

by the service of 5s. a year, and the rents were then 3l. 10s. per ann. from this time it constantly attended Ashwelthorpe.

In 1406 sir Thomas Jernegan had it, and had a charter of confirmation of free-warren. In 1414 sir Thomas de Thorpe ordered it to be sold, or to go with Elizabeth, his daughter. In 1550 James Downes, and Elizabeth, his wife, had it, when Roger Woodhouse, Robert Richers, and Thomas Asteley, conveyed divers parts of it to him. In 1572 Robert Downes was lord, who joined it to his manor of Beacham's, or Beauchamp's, in Wymondham, with which it still remains.

There was an ancient family surnamed de Bonewell; for in 1268 William de Bonewell gave to the prior of Lewis a rent of 2s. 6d. out of his lands in Bunwell. They continued a long time in the neighbourhood; for in 1482 William Bonewell, of Carleton-Rode, conveyed to Thomas Chamberlain, gent. and others, divers lands in Carleton-Rode.

CARLETON-RODE. This village, to distinguish it from many others of the same name in this county, hath the addition of *Rode* fixed to it, from a remarkable rode, or cross, standing in Rode-lane, where the road from Wymondham to Difs laid.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, and hath a square tower and five bells, there are two ailes with chapels at their east ends; the chancel and nave are thatched. When Norwich Doomſday-book was wrote Robert Fitz-Osborn was patron. The rector had a house and twenty-six acres of glebe, which joins to the north side of the church-yard; the living,
with

with the portion of the prior of Sees*, was valued at twenty-six marks, and now stands thus in the king's books:—16l. Carleton-Rode rect. - - - 48l. clear yearly value,—as sworn; so that it is discharged of first-fruits and tenths, and is capable of augmentation. Here were three guilds, and in 1502 the tower was finished, and the bells fixed.

There was a free chapel in this town, dedicated to the Virgin Mary; the way which leads to it is still called Chapel-gate-lane, but it hath been long since demolished.

There is a stone,—*For Thomas Howse, of this parish, who died March 16, 1671, and his six youngest children.*

And another,—*For Thomas Talbot, gent. who died Jan. 2, 1657,—with the arms of Talbot and Wymondham, impaling a chev. ingrailed between three goats heads crazed.*

There was taken up some years since a fine stone coffin in the midst of the chancel, which stood level with the earth, the grave-stone that covered it being jointed into the trough, or coffin part.

There is an altar-tomb on the south side in the church-yard,—*For Thomas le Hunt, esq. son of sir George le Hunt, of Little Bradley, in Suffolk, who died January 2, 1703, aged 76. Margaret, his reliet, November 6, 1716, aged 80.*

William

* In the old taxation the living was valued at twenty-five marks, and the portion of the monks of Sees, by Mendham, at 4s.

William Ernald, rector, was buried in the middle of the chancel in 1375; his stone lies now at the entrance; his effigy, in a priest's habit, in his desk, with a book lying before him, and a cross standing before, remains in brass, but the inscription is lost. He was presented by sir Roger de Norwich, knt. on whom this advowson was entailed, levied about 1320. by the heirs of Roger Fitz-Osbert.

In 1392 Richard II. granted licence to appropriate this rectory to the college of Norton-Subcots; but for want of the bishop's consent it never took effect.

In 1411 the master and brethren of Mettingham chantry, or college, which was founded by sir John de Norwich, knt. vice-admiral, and lord of Mettingham, presented to this rectory.

In 1560 William Bennet, no graduate, and a man under excommunication, had this rectory of John Denny, esq. he had a long suit with Richard Stokes, as coming in by *simony*. He was succeeded in 1596 by Stokes, who in 1603 was chaplain to the archbishop of Canterbury, and returned answer, that there were 340 communicants in this parish.

In 1619 Thomas Stokes, L. L. B. was presented by sir William Doyly, assignee of Thomas Denny, and was afterwards rector of Heigham, by Norwich, from which, as also from this, and a temporal estate of about 30l. per ann. he was ejected by the earl of Manchester, April 28, 1644, for *absence*, keeping an *insufficient* curate, observing the rules of the church, refusing to contribute to the rebellion, and being an ale-house haunter; he had a wife and three children. In 1660 Edward Atkinson was presented by Robert Barton, esq. he lies buried under an altar-tomb
on

on the south side of the church-yard, with the arms of Atkinson, *obijt* May 4, 1698, *ætat.* 77.

In 1731 the Rev. Mr. James Baldwin, sen. A. M. was presented by John Buxton, esq. of Chanons, in Tibbenham, then lord and patron, father of Robert Buxton, esq. of Channons and Shadwell-Lodge, who in 1750 presented the Rev. John Buxton to this rectory, and also to the rectory of Bunwell.

At the conquest this town was in five parts; the first and principal part belonged to Robert Bigot's manor of Forncet, and was held of it by twenty-one freemen, two of whom, with the two churches *, and thirty acres of glebe belonging to them, he gave to Oslac, the rest attends Forncet manor to this day, in right of which his grace the duke of Norfolk is lord paramount over his own tenants, and still holds court leet here.

The second part belonged to Tibbenham manor, which Alric, a Thane of the Confessor's, held, and was given to Eudo, son of Spiruwin, who held it at the Conqueror's survey, and Hainfrid under him. Carleton was then two miles and an half long, and one mile and a quarter and four perches broad, and paid 22d to the gelt or tax. This part was after aliened from Tibbenham manor, and joined to Carleton; and accordingly in 1550 Thomas Knevet held a parcel of the manor of Tibbenham, lying in Carleton-Rode †. And hence it is that as all the manors are united and joined to Bunwell and Carleton, with their members, that Tibbenham is always mentioned.

* St. Mary's chapel was one of them, and might then be parochial.

† The court of the manors was held at Bunwell, and the style is "Bunwell, Tybenham, Carleton *cum membris.*"

tioned. This part was very early joined to Buckenham Castle, which it always attended till sold from it by the Knevets ; and accordingly in the time of Henry III. 1257, that king granted to Robert de Tate-shale, lord of Buckenham Castle, liberty of free-warren in his demesne lands in this town, and Richard II. in 1394, confirmed it to Constantine de Clifton, his heir ; and in 1275 Edward I. granted view of frankpledge, or a leet, and assize of bread and ale of all his tenants in Tibbenham and Carleton, for which he paid 3s per annum to Depewade hundred.

The third part belonged to William de Warren, who had it of the king's gift, and Almark a freeman, held it in the Confessor's time under Bishop Stigand ; this afterwards became the manor called Buckenham's.

The fourth part belonged to Alan earl of Richmond, as appendant to his manor of Cossey, and made part of the manor of Carleton.

The fifth part belonged to the manor of Howe, which Godric the Sewer took care of for the king. And this was the state of the village at the Conqueror's survey.

CARLETON-MANOR was the capital manor, and contained that part and advowsons which Oslac had of the Bigots, and that part which belonged to Cossey, the former of which was held of the Norfolk family, and the latter of the honor of Richmond †, to which the king's part was afterwards added, when Maud,
mother

† This honour extends now into this town, and all that hold of the honor are exempt from any superior jurisdiction of any other lords, and may claim the privileges of the honor by their tenure.

mother of Henry II. gave it to Gundred the countess, the whole being then worth 10*l.* per annum. That countess infeoffed the whole in one Osbert, and Patro-nel, or Parnel, his wife, the father and mother of Roger Fitz-Osbert, founder of St. Olave's, in Herling-fleet, about 1216.

Roger Fitz-Osbert, sometimes le Fitz-Osbert, or Ouburn, died in 1205, Catherine his widow survived him, and held it for life; she presented twice to this rectory. At her death it was to descend to the heirs of the two sisters and heiresses of Roger aforesaid, viz. sir Peter Jernegen, son of sir William Jernegen, by Isabel, sister of the said Roger, and to John Nuin, or Noion, (now Nun) of Sall, in Eynsford, son and heir of Alice, the other sister of the said Roger, and they, about 1320, by fine, settled the manor and advowson on sir Walter de Norwich, and his heirs, together with the manor and advowson of Bunwell Perfe-Hall, all which have passed together to this day.

RODE-HALL-MANOR, in Carleton-Rode, took its name from the owners, who were surnamed from the rode, or cross, they dwelt by. In 1237 Walter de Rode held it at a quarter of a fee of Roger Fitz-Osbert, he of the earl marshal, and he of the king. It after belonged to William de Rode, called also de Carleton; and in 1338 to Benedict de Uvedale and John de Carleton Rode, and then to Robert de Rode §. In 1402 William Woodherd had it, and after him Robert Morton, esq. In 1479 we find it in Henry Heydon, esq. who joined it to his other manor here, called

BUCKENHAM'S

§ This family continued here long after, for in 1543 Wm. Rode sold an estate here to John Clement.

BUCKENHAM'S, in Carleton-Rode, which took its name also from its owners. In 1279 Robert de Buckenham died seised lord.

It appears that this manor had then two acres of meadow in demesne, an hundred acres of wood, four hens paid for rent, sixty-four days work in harvest done by the tenants, pannage for eighty-four hogs, and liberty for eighty men, and two servants appointed by the lord to look after them, to gather nuts for six days together in the woods belonging to the manor of Lopham. In 1404 Agnes, wife of Thomas de Lye, had a third part of it, and conveyed it to John de Colby; and afterwards all the parts were bought in by John Heydon esq. In 1479 Henry Heydon his son held these manors, joined as afore-said, at the death of John, together with Bosevile's manor, in Bunwell.

In 1544 the third part of the manor of Beauchamp's, or Beacham's, was settled by Robert Newport, esq. and Margaret, his wife, (in whose right he had it) on sir John Clare, knt. This belongs to Beacham's manor in Wymondham, which extended hither.

The lords of the honor of Clare had lands here, held of them. In 1483 John duke of Bedford died seised of two courts called turns, and one court called leet, to be held yearly in the village of Carleton-Rode. And the whole lands held of that honor were extended, or valued, at half a fee.

In 1570 Thomas Knevet, jun. James Hubbard, gent. Anthony Denny, gent. Robert Grey, Robert Jexe, and John Randolf, were lords here, and the honor

honor of Richmond and the earl of Arundel were chief lords of the commons.

In 1699 the manor of Richmond's, formerly the Talbot's, is mentioned, and said to belong to Mr. Wm. Jubbs, and then to Mr. Martin, but finding this never named elsewhere, we are apt to think that they only hired the property of Richmond honor.

The religious concerned here were, the prior of Norwich, whose temporals were taxed at 4s. the prior of Buckenham's at 2s. 9d. and those of the prior of Wangford at 6d. ob. q.

FORNCET, wrote in Doomsday-book *Forneffeta*, includes at this time several ancient berewics or hamlets, according to which it is in some measure divided at this day; one part is called Kettleton-end, antiently Kekeling's-town, or Kekelington; this with Tuanatuna, or Tanaton-end *, made up the parish of Forncet St. Peter, which though known by that name in the Confessor's time was only a berewic to Forncet, and had then only one church, now called Forncet St. Mary, to which St. Peter is, and always was, a chapel of ease, though it hath all the privileges of baptism, burial, and administration of the sacrament, as well as the mother church. It was founded just before the Conqueror's time in Tuana-tun berewic, probably by Oslac and his tenants, who then held this part; for Doomsday says, "it had sixty acres of the alms of many."

Forncet, called sometimes, to distinguish it from the several berewics or ends, Mid-town, or the Middle

* Tuanaton, Thwanaton, and now Swanton hamlet, in Forncet.

the part of the town, in the time of the Confessor belonged to bishop Stigand, of whom Coleman held it. It had then only St. Mary's church and fifteen acres of glebe belonging to it, but the appendant berewics, or manors, held of it, made it a grand manor; for besides Kekelington, Tuanaton, Galgryme, or Gallowgreen, Sugat, and Southgate, which now are all included in the bounds of the two parishes, it had lands, or manors, in the under-named towns*, mentioned in Doomsday, no less than sixteen in number, held of it, which constituted the honor of Forncet, of which Roger Bigod, or Bigot, was lord at the conquest, when the Forncet part was two miles long and one broad, and paid 6d. ob. to the gelt; and Tuanaton was then eleven furlongs long and six furlongs and ten perches broad, and paid 11d. ob. to the gelt, Kekelington being included in the measure of Tuanaton.

The whole, without the freemen, was worth 4l. per annum at the first survey, and 5l. and 10d. at the last; and the king and the earl had the soc, or chief jurisdiction. The freemen, at the first survey, were worth 10l. per annum to the manor, and at the last, 22l. 2s. 9d. A part of it was held of Coleman by Olf, a Dane, in the Confessor's time, and Tuanaton was then in two parts; Ollac held one, as also at the conquest, and Hardeking the other, and reclaimed it as given him by the king, but yet Walter held it of Roger Bigot.

There was a part of it which belonged to Tasburgh manor; one freeman, named Scula, that belonged to the king; and three parts, one of which laid in

D

three

* Hales, Aflackton, Wadon, Moulton, Tibbenham, Thraffton, Straffton, Shelton, Hardwick, Fritton, Carleton, Tacolnestone, Hapton, Tasburgh, Fundenhall.

three several ends, or divisions of the town, belonging to Alan earl of Richmond's manor of Colsey, viz. in Kekelington three freemen, &c. in Tuanaton two soc-men, &c. and in Mideltun one freeman and half the services of another ; and this was the state of the town at the Conqueror's survey, when Roger Bigot was lord of it by that prince's gift, being one of those great men that attended him when he first came into England, and for his signal services was well rewarded. This was that Roger who founded Thetford priory, to which he gave this advowson. He left it to William Bigot, his son and heir, steward of the household to Henry I. who was drowned with the king's children as they came from Normandy, and was succeeded by Hugh Bigot, his brother, steward also of the household to the same king ; but at his death, which happened to be in Normandy, this Hugh became the principal instrument for advancing Stephen earl of Boulogne to the crown of England ; for being steward as aforesaid (an office in those times of the highest reputation) he hastened to England, and in the presence of the archbishop of Canterbury averred upon oath, that king Henry, upon his death bed, disinherited his daughter Maud, the empress, and appointed Stephen his heir ; for which services (as some say) he was advanced by him to the earldom of the East-Angles, for in the 6th of king Stephen he was so styled ; and in the twelfth year of Henry II. he advanced him anew to the dignity and title of earl of Norfolk, and to the office of steward, to hold it as amply as Roger his father did in the time of Henry I. notwithstanding all which honor and great favors conferred on him, he took part with Robert earl of Leicester, adhering to young king Henry in his rebellious insurrections ; for which disloyal practices he was forced to make his peace with a fine of 1000 marks, a prodigious sum in those days ; and going soon

king's army in Wales, but dying in 1224, this manor, and all his inheritance, descended to Roger Bigot, their son and heir, who was knighted in 1232; and at a tournament between the southern and northern lords in 1236, was taken much notice of for his singular skill and dexterity in those warlike exercises. Upon levying the aid to marry the king's eldest daughter, he paid 162*l.* 11*s.* for an hundred and twenty-five knights fees of the old feoffment, and thirty-seven and an half of the new. In 1241 he was with the king in France, and behaved gallantly at the famous skirmish between the French and English near Xantoigne. In 1245 he was one of those that were sent to the council of Lyons, to complain of the burden the kingdom laid under from the see of Rome, and finding no redress, was one of those lords who subscribed a letter to the Pope, requiring a remedy from such future exactions, and unjust oppressions; and the same year obtained the office and honor of marshal, in right of his mother, which that king thus conferred on him:—The king gave the marshal's rod, or staff, into Maud's hands, and she having delivered it to her son and heir, Roger, the king accepted his homage for it, and ordered the treasurer and barons of the exchequer to let him enjoy all the privileges of that office, and admit his sufficient deputy (if occasion required) to sit in that court. In 1247 he seized the earl of Ghisnes, on his arrival in England, and excused that fact to the king by acquainting him, it was only a retaliation of former indignities, the said earl having served him so when he went ambassabor into France, having detained him prisoner till he had satisfied him for his passage through his lands. In 1252 he was present when the king confirmed the two charters, called, the great charter, or Magna Carta, and Carta de Foresta; and the next year he attended his majesty into Gascoigne.

In

In 1254 Robert de Ros, one of the barons, being charged with some crime committed against the king, this earl apologized for him, till the king gave him harsh language and called him "traitor;" upon which, with a stern aspect, he told him "he lyed," and that he never was, nor would be so, adding, "if you do nothing but what the law warranteth, you can do no harm:" yes, quoth the king, "I can thrash your corn and sell it, and so humble you:" to which he replied, "if you do it, I will send you the heads of the thrashers." But this breach was soon made up, for in 1259 he was sent ambassador to the king of France. In 1263 he was one of those who undertook that the king should submit to the determination of Lewis the French king, concerning the provisions of Oxford; and the king being made prisoner at the battle of Lewes, he was constituted by the barons governor of Oxford-castle, in Suffolk. In 1269 he was found to hold this manor and advowson (the prior of Thetford having released all right in the latter) as head and chief parcel of the barony of Bigot, and dying soon after, he was buried at Thetford, leaving his honors and estate to his nephew, Roger Bigot, son of his brother, Hugh, who in 1281 was in the Welsh expedition. In 1288 he had a charter of free-warren to this manor. In 1293 he was licensed to embattle his castle, or mansion-house, at Bungay, in Suffolk; and it is plain he did not degenerate from his ancestors, for he stood up for the people's liberty, being the chief of those lords who openly opposed Edward I. in his arbitrary impositions upon lands and wool, and not only opposed the levy demanded by the king for his expedition into Flanders, but actually refused his personal attendance thither; and he and the earl of Hereford, with others, inhibited the payment of the assessment, and incited the Londoners so, that he obtained a confirmation of the two great charters, and

the *articuli super chartas*, which explain them, together with a pardon for all offences; thus all discontents being settled, in 1299 he went in the expedition into Scotland, and having no issue, he constituted king Edward his heir, delivering to him his marshal's rod, on condition it should be returned to his children if he had any, he to have a 1000l. down, and 1000l. per ann. during life. Historians aver all this to be done out of fear, because the earl of Hereford, his old friend and ally, being dead, he thought the king would now make him suffer for conspiring against him. But soon after he had a regrant of the earldom, marshalship, and constableship of Norwich castle, and all his estate, in tail special, to himself for life, and to his heirs, if he had any, by Alice, his second wife, with remainder to the king, who inherited the whole at his death in 1305, John Bigot, his brother, and heir, inheriting only the manors of Stockton, in Norfolk, and Sutterington, in Yorkshire, and a few more estates not contained in the settlement. The king being thus possessed, enjoyed it till Thomas de Brotherton, his fifth son, had the earldom of Norfolk, and marshalship of England, and great part of the estate of the Bigots; and among others, this manor and advowson, granted to him and his heirs by Edward II. his half brother. In 1312 he was constable of Norwich castle. In 1315 he was returned lord of the honor of Forncet, and of the manors of Forncet, Ditchingham, Earsham, Framlingham-Earl, Halvergate, Southfield, South-Walsham, Hanwóth, &c. with the half hundred of Earsham. In 1326, having behaved well in the Scotch wars, he had a grant of confirmation of the honors, lands, and estates of the Bigots. In 1332 he was a third time in the Scotch wars, and dying in 1338, was buried in the abbey at St. Edmund's Bury. He had two wives, but left no male issue; by his first wife, Alice, daughter of sir Roger Hales, of Harwich,

Harwich, knt. he had a son, named Edward, who died before him, and two daughters, named Alice, and Margaret, the latter was first married to John lord Segrave, of Folkstone, in Kent, who in her right was lord here; by him she had issue, Elizabeth, and Anne, who was lady abbess at Barking, in Essex. Her second husband was sir William Manney, knt.* by whom she had issue Thomas, who was, in his youth, unfortunately drowned in a well, at Deptford, in Kent, and Margaret, married to John Hastings, earl of Pembroke. This sir Walter was lord and patron here in 1361, and 1368, but dying before his lady, she had the whole of the estate in her own right, and in 1397 was created duchess of Norfolk, for life, by Richard II. She died in 1399, and was buried at the Friars-minors in London, and by inquisition taken at her death, it was found that her daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, married to John Lord Mowbray, had issue John, created earl of Nottingham, who dying under age, issueless, was succeeded by Thomas Mowbray, his brother, who was duke of Norfolk, earl of Nottingham, baron Mowbray, Segrave, Braose, and Gower, knight of the garter, and, as Coke upon Littleton saith, the first earl marshal that stiled himself earl marshal of England†;

D 4 his

* Sir Walter Manney, knt. in right of Margaret, his wife, held Forncet manors and honor in chief, as parcel, or head, of the barony, of the earl of Norfolk, by knights service, and 25s. per annum paid for castle-ward to Norwich castle; and he had free-warren belonging to the manor, which was worth twenty marks a year. It had then a capital mansion house, 178 acres of land, 23 of meadow, divers woods and alder-carrs, two wind-mills, the fourth part of the tolls and profits of Stratton-market, lett at 2s. per annum, &c.

† He was constituted earl-marshal of England for life, but afterwards obtained it in remainder to the heirs of his body, with an union of the office of marshal in the courts of king's bench and exchequer, and marshal cryer before the steward, and
marshal

his christian name was Thomas, in respect to Thomas, the archbishop of the diocese of Canterbury. He was so much in the king's favor as to be created earl of Nottingham, to which honor he was advanced the very day his grandmother, Margaret, (the heiress of Brotherton) was created duchess; but as his greatness was founded in blood, so he soon after irrecoverably fell; for being accused by Henry of Bolingbroke, for words spoken indecently of the king, whom he said, " notwithstanding his fair pretences and oaths, meant to oppress the duke of Lancaster, and others," that prince, though he had so great a favor for him, for being active in the destruction of Richard earl of Arundel†, his father-in-law, and Thomas of Woodstock, duke of Gloucester, as to create him duke of Norfolk, and give him his father-in-law's forfeited estate, yet he committed him prisoner to Windsor-castle, and a challenge, or camp-ordeal, ensued between them, when the duke came to the place appointed for the combat, with his horse caparisoned with crimson velvet, embroidered with silver lions and mulberry-trees; but the king then prohibited the combat, banished Henry, called earl of Hereford, for ten years, and the duke for life; and this happened on the very day twelve-month that he had

marshal of the king's household, and on that account he and his heirs should bear a golden truncheon, enamelled with black at each end, having the king's arms engraven at the upper, and his own at the lower end.

† He had two wives; 1st. Elizabeth, daughter of the lord Strange, by whom he had no issue; 2d. Elizabeth, sister and only heiress of Thomas Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, by whom she had issue Thomas lord Mowbray, beheaded at York, with Richard Scroop, archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1405; John, his second son, who succeeded him; Margaret, his eldest daughter, married sir Robert Howard, knt. Isabel, the second daughter, married, first, Henry Ferrers, of Groby, and afterwards sir James Berkeley, knt. father of William marquis Berkeley.

had been accessory to the murder of the duke of Gloucester: Germany, Bohemia, and Hungary, were allotted for his exile, pursuant to which sentence he departed, but never returned; for as he came from Jerusalem, he died of the plague at Venice, in the year 1400, in the 1st of Henry IV. seized of this manor, with the court, called the "knighten-court," thereto belonging, and Elizabeth, his widow, inherited them, and afterwards remarried sir Gerard de Ufflete, knt. who held them till her death, in 1424.

The knighten-court belonging to this manor was the ancient court, to which all those great men that held their several manors, lands, and tenements, of the Bigots honor, were obliged to do suit and service, and pay castle-ward for the guard of the earl's castle at Norwich every three weeks, and to do their homages, pay their reliefs and aids for the several knights fees they held of the honor, at every death, alienation, or aid, granted to the earl. It appears that there were many fees held both of the old and new scoffment in the Bigots times; but it was greatly augmented in 1337, when the division of all the fees belonging to Thomas de Brotherton, late earl of Norfolk, was made by the king's writ between his two daughters and heiresses; Alice married sir Edward de Montague, and Margaret, sir John de Segrave, who had Forncet for his share, and above fifty knights fees, many of which he transferred from Rising-Castle, and other places, and added them to the knighten-court here.

This court was held constantly every three weeks, and had the following officers belonging to it:

1. An auditor, whose business was once a year to audit and pass the year's accounts, receive the money, and

and return it to the lord; he was generally a man of some principal family in the county, and had a handsome salary for life, it being held by patent. Sir Richard Fulmerston, knt. and several of the Kempes, &c. were auditors.

2. The feodary, an office of honor and great profit; his business was to take inquisitions at the death of each tenant that held any fees, or parts of fees, by knights service, and inroll all deeds of alienations of any fees or parts thereof.

3. The collector, whose office was to attend at the doing of all homages, and to receive all reliefs, aids, castle-guard money, wards, marriage money, &c.

4. The serjeant, who was the feodary's officer, to serve all processess, make enquiries, serve all summonses, return the jurors, and certify the deaths.

5. The bailiff, who was to summon the under tenants, give notice of the courts, make seizures, return copies of the rolls, &c. to the evidence-room.

The feodary-book of this honor was last of all renewed in 1609, when the noble Henry earl of Northampton, baron of Marnehill, lord guardian of the Cinque-ports, lord keeper of the privy-seal, and knight the garter, was lord. It had then above fifty fees held of it in the county of Norfolk only.

At the death of Elizabeth duchess of Norfolk. in 1424. John Mowbray, her second son and heir, by the death of his eldest brother, succeeded to the honor and manor; he was one of those valiant noblemen that served Henry V. and VI. in their wars with France, in which, having behaved with the greatest
courage

courage and fidelity, he was by parliament restored to the title and dignity of duke of Norfolk (being before styled earl marshal and earl of Nottingham only) in 1424. In 1414 he was at the siege of Harfleur with Henry V. where he got the flux by eating too much fruit, and so was forced to return before the famous battle of Agincourt. In 1416 he was at the siege of Caen, in Normandy, and continued in those parts till that king's death, and was soon after retained to serve Henry VI. in his wars, by whom he was made knight of the garter; he died October 19. 1433, at his manor of Epleworth, in the Isle of Axholm, in Lincolnshire, and was buried in the charterhouse of the carthusians there: by Katherine, daughter of Ralph Nevile, first earl of Westmoreland, and of Joan, his wife, daughter of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, he had John lord Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, earl Marshal and Nottingham, lord Segrave, Gower, &c. knight of the garter, and lord of this honor and manor, who in 1438 went ambassador into Picardy, to make a peace between the kings of England and France, and had then a grant of a place and seat in parliament next to the duke of Exeter. In 1446 he went in pilgrimage to Rome; and in 1456 he had licence to visit other holy places in Ireland, Scotland, Bretaine, Piccardy, and Cologn, and to the blood of our Saviour at Windisnark; as also to go a second time to Rome and Jerusalem. having vowed to do it for recovery of the king's health. In 1460 he was constituted by Edward IV. justice-itinerant of all the forests south of Trent, but died in 1461, and was buried in the abbey of Thetford, as was Eleanor, his wife, daughter of William lord Bourchier, and sister of Hen. Bourchier, earl of Essex.

He was succeeded by his son, John lord Mowbray, who during his father's life-time was created earl Warren and Surrey by Henry VI. and by Edward IV.

IV. was made knight of the garter. In 1473 that king retained him to serve in the French wars; he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Talbot, first earl of Shrewsbury, and had issue only one daughter; he died in 1475, and was buried by his ancestors in Thetford priory church, and this manor was assigned to Elizabeth duchess of Norfolk, his widow, who presented here in 1496; but the honor of Forncet went to Ann, their only daughter, who married Rich. Plantagenet, of Shrewsbury, duke of York, second son to Edward IV. who, because the title of duke of Norfolk was by creation limited to the heirs male of the Mowbrays, he obtained a patent from his father, creating him duke of Norfolk, and earl Warren, with annuities of 40l. a year out of the revenues of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and 20l. per annum out of the profits of the counties of Surrey and Suffex, to be paid by the sheriffs of those counties; in right of his wife he was earl marshal, and had the baronies of Mowbray, Segrave, and Gower, together with the vast inheritance of her family. This Richard, with his brother, Edward V. was by the unnatural and cruel command of that monster Richard duke of Gloucester, their uncle, afterwards Richard III. barbarously murdered in the Tower of London in 1483, and leaving no issue, the inheritance of this great house fell to two heiresses, Isabel and Margaret, daughters of Thomas de Mowbray, first duke of Norfolk, the first of whom married sir James Berkley, and the other sir Robert Howard, knt. to whose family this honor, manor, and advowson, passed, and hath continued in it to this day: we shall therefore conclude our account of the Bigots and Mowbrays, and proceed to the noble family of Howard*.

The

* Mr. Blomefield, in his essay, concludes his accounts of the Bigots and Mowbrays with the copy of an ancient manuscript, called

The most honorable family of the Howards being not only the first of this county, but of all England, next to the royal family, we shall treat of them at large in this place, this town being the chief, or head of the honor, beginning as far back as we can trace them, from the many ancient pedigrees, rolls, evidences, printed accounts, and other memorials, that we have met with concerning them, chiefly following that pedigree* which is in Caius College library, in Cambridge, the greatest part of it being proved by extracts out of authentic evidences and deeds, which are entered upon it.

1. Fulcho, or Fulk; he is exhibited on his knees in armor, with a plume of feathers for his crest, on the top of his helmet; the fash on which the scabbard of his sword hangs, goes in the form of a band, and is tied with a knot on his shoulder; he hath his drawn sword erected in his right hand; from the oval that he is drawn in hangs his shield, made in the shape of a heart, and on it, gul. a bend between six cross crosslets fitch arg. which arms have been constantly borne by the Howards to this day.

2. Galfrid, or Jeffery, son of Fulk, succeeded, who had two sons, Humphrey, the younger, and

3. Alan Fitz-Jeffery, the elder, whose son,

4. William, took the surname of Wiggenhall, from the town of that name in Freebridge Marshland, where he was born, and had lands confirmed to him by

called "The Book of Pleas," now remaining in the guild-hall in the city of Norwich; which we omit, as thinking it a dull reiteration of what we have already said on the subject.

* The title of that pedigree is, *Stemma et accurata deductio, præclaræ familiæ Howardorum, usque ad annum 1605.*

by the abbot and convent of St. Edmund's Bury, in Suffolk; he had three sons; Askill, his second, and Wilfric, his third son, both continued the surname of Wiggenhall, but

5. John, his eldest son, took the surname of Heyward, Hauuard, or Howard, and was the first of this family of that surname*, which, as we imagine, he took from the office of heyward there; he married Lucy Germund, by whom he had

6. William Howard, of Wiggenhall, with whom fir William Dugdale begins the † pedigree of this noble family. This William being bred to the law, made so great proficiency therein, and raised such fortunes, that he was knighted about the 6th year of Edward I. and had his seat at Wiggenhall, where by various purchases he acquired a considerable estate; he had a brother, named Thomas, who was called sometimes Thomas de Wiggenhall, and sometimes Thomas Howard, of Wiggenhall; and also another brother, called Hugh Howard, who was instituted to the vicarage of Wiggenhall St. German's, May 7, 1304‡. This William was first appointed one of the

* This name is said, by different people, to be derived from different origins, as *hot ward*, the warden of an hall; *hold-ward*, the warden, or keeper of any strong hold; of *hoch*, high; and *ward*, a warden; or *hold*, a favor; and *word*, worthy, *Teut.* or of *hold*, hospitality, and ward; but all these are little to our purpose, otherwise than the natural origin of it, the Heyward, or Howard, being the high or chief warden, or keeper of any place or thing; and indeed we believe that this John was the Heyward here.

† The Peerage, published at London in 1715, begins with this William; but the edition in 1741 with Hervey.

‡ The Howards remained in these parts many generations after the chief branch removed.

the judges in the court of Common-pleas by Edward I. about 1280; and on the 11th of October, 1296, in the 25th of Edward I. he was sworn chief justice of the King's-bench; was constantly summoned to parliament till the time of Edward II. in which year he was sent into Scotland with Robert de Wateville, on the king's affairs; and on the 12th of December, 1307, had letters of protection from his majesty to answer no suits, and not to plead to any thing till his return, which patent was produced in the 1st, 2d, and 3d years of Edward II. so that he did not return to settle till after that time. By various deeds we find that he purchased estates in Walpole, Tilney, North Wotton, and many towns in that neighbourhood: he had two wives; Alice, daughter of sir Robert Ufford, knt. by whom he had no issue; and Alice, daughter of sir Edmund Fitton, of Wigenhall, knt. by whom he had issue John and William; he is said to have died about 1308, but where buried we do not find; the Peerage, v. 1. p. 7. saith, he is pourtrayed in glass in judges robes in a window in Long Melford church. in Suffolk, with two other judges, and this inscription under them:—*Pray for the good state of William Haward, chief justis of Yngland, and the : : : Pycot and John Haugh justis of the law.*

7. Sir John Howard, knt. his eldest son, succeeded him, who in 1305 was gentleman of the bed-chamber to Edw I. afterwards sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, and custos, or governor, of Norwich castle; went into the Scottish wars, and to Gascoigne, to serve the king there; his brother, William Howard, purchased East Walton manor, and many other estates in Norfolk; but dying without issue, before 1316, he became his sole heir. He married Joan, sister of Richard

chard de Cornwall, who survived him, as appears from the inquisition taken at his death, in the 5th of Edward III. in the year 1330, when he was lord of several manors in Wiggshall, East Walton, Terrington, South Wotton, &c. and though it hath been said that one Edmund Howard was brother to this sir John, we cannot find any thing like it, but take it to be a mistake for that Edmund Howard, who was presented in 1309 by Edward II. to the rectory of Weeting St. Mary; now this Edmund we take to have been son to a younger branch of the family.

8. Sir John Howard, jun. knt. son and heir of sir John Howard, sen. knt. and Joan Cornwall, his wife, married Alice du Bois, daughter of sir Robert du Bosco, or Bois, of Fersfield, knt. by Christian, daughter of sir William Laimer, knt. who in 1333 became sole heiress to sir Robert du Bois, her only brother, and inherited the large estate of that family. Sir John in 1335 was constituted by Edward III. admiral of the king's whole fleet, from the mouth of the Thames northward; in 1344 was sheriff of Norfolk; and in 1346 obtained a grant for a market every Friday, and a fair yearly, at his manor of Wiggshall, and had a new patent to constitute him Admiral again; he was esquire of the body to Edward III. and behaved well in the siege of Calais, in the 1st year of that king; he had issue,

9. Sir Robert Howard, knt. who married Margaret, daughter, and at length one of the heiresses of sir Robert Scales, knt. lord Scales and Newcels; he had all the Bois's estates at the death of his mother, in 1371. In 1378 he was committed to the Tower for detaining Margery de Narford from Alice lady Nevile, her grandmother; sir Robert died July 3,
1388,

1388, at East Winch, where he lies buried. According to the settlement made by him in 1336, Margaret, his widow, enjoyed the greatest part of the Bois's estate during her life; and at her death she was buried by her husband, who died before his father, leaving issue,

10. Sir John Howard, *knt.* his eldest son and heir, who at his grandfather's death became heir to the whole estate, except the manors of Brookes, in Suffolk, and East Walton, in Norfolk, the former of which was settled by sir Robert Howard on Edmund Howard, his second son; the latter, on Robert Howard, his third son; but both dying without issue, they reverted to sir John, their elder brother, who was retained to serve Richard II. for life, and had two wives: by Margaret, his first wife, daughter and heiress of sir John Plais, of Weeting, *knt.* he had issue sir John Howard, *jun. knt.** who married Joan, daughter and heiress of sir Richard Walton, *knt.* and by her had Elizabeth Howard, their sole daughter and heiress, who married John de Vere, twelfth earl of Oxford of the Vere family. Margaret Plais, his first wife, died in 1391, and he married again to Alice, daughter and heiress of sir William Tendring, *knt.* and Catherine Clopton, his wife, who died in 1426, and was buried at Stoke-Neyland, in Suffolk, by her father, sir William Tendring; and in 1437, when sir John, her husband, died, he was buried by her. He had issue by his last wife two sons†; Henry, his youngest, whose only daughter,
E
Elizabeth,

* Sir John Howard died in 1410, twenty-seven years before his father.

† He had also by her two daughters; Margaret, married to sir William Daniel, *knt.* and Catherine, to Edward Nevile, lord Abergavenny.

Elizabeth, married Henry Wentworth, of Cobham; and sir Robert Howard, his eldest, lord of Forncet manor and honor in his wife's right, died in his father's life-time, leaving issue by Margaret, daughter and coheirefs to Thomas de Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and coheirefs of Richard earl of Arundel.

11. Sir John Howard. *knt.** who began very early to distinguish himself in the wars. In the latter part of the reign of Henry VI. he accompanied John viscount Lisle to Blay, with 22000 men, and soon after marched to the relief of Chatillon with John earl of Shrewsbury, where that valiant earl was slain. In 1442 he was sent by Henry VI. to appease the great riot at Norwich. In 1460, in the 1st of Edward IV. he was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, and consequently had the custody of Norwich-castle, then the king's prison, and was appointed one of the king's carvers; and in consideration of his great services obtained a grant of several manors, which were then in the crown by the attainder of John earl of Wiltshire. In the second of Edward IV. he had the joint command (with the lords Falconberg and Clinton) of the king's fleet, and did considerable service against France, being also at that time treasurer of the king's household. In 1467 he was sheriff of Oxfordshire and Berkshire. In 1469, bearing the title of lord Howard, (by which title, in 1471, he was summoned to parliament as a baron of the realm) he was made captain-general of the king's forces at sea, for baffling the attempts of the Lancastrians, then making a powerful

* Thus it appears, that this sir John Howard, the first Howard duke of Norfolk, by his mother, was descended from Edward I. by his second wife, Margaret, daughter to Philip the Hardy, king of France.

a powerful head under the stout earl of Warwick. In 1470 he was made deputy-governor of Calais and the Marshes, with lord Hastings, and having behaved with singular prudence and fidelity, he obtained a grant in tail special of divers lands and manors. In 1473 he obtained of the king the wardship and marriage of sir John Bouchier, knt. lord Berners, then a minor, whom he afterwards married to Catherine Howard, his only issue by his second wife. In 1477 he had a grant of the office of constable of the Tower of London, and the next year was again made captain-general of the king's fleet against the Scots, and was also installed knight of the garter in the reign of Edward IV. to whom he adhered faithfully during the whole course of it; as he did to Richard III. after he had got the crown, (though without having any evil hand in the barbarous actions which were exercised thereto) so that to oblige him the more, he was upon June 28, in the 1st year of that king's reign, made earl marshal of England, and advanced to the dignity of duke of Norfolk, (Thomas, his son, being then also created earl of Surrey); and the day preceding the king's coronation was constituted high admiral of England for that day, also lord-admiral of England, Ireland, and Aquitaine, for life; and at the same time obtained a special grant of divers manors and lordships, and confirmation of his mother's inheritance, and among others this manor, advowson, and honor, and of all the liberties, since, and now called the duke of Norfolk's liberties, which were first granted to John lord Mowbray. But these great honors and vast possessions were not long enjoyed; for in 1485, being placed in the front of the army at Bosworth-field, he was there slain, with the king, August the 22d; and being afterwards attainted, great part of his estate was seized

by Henry VII. His body was brought back, and interred in the abbey church at Thetford. Catherine, daughter to William lord Molins, was his first wife, by whom he had one son and four daughters; Ann, married sir Edmund Gorge, knt. Isabel, sir Robert Mortimer, of Essex, knt. Jane, sir John Timperley; and Margaret, sir John Windham, knt. By his second wife, Margaret, daughter of sir John Chetworth, knt. he had only Catherine, who married sir John Bouchier, lord Berners.

12. Thomas Howard, his son and heir, being esquire of the body to Edward IV. was retained to serve him in his wars. In the 15th of Edward IV. 1474, he was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk; and in the 1st of Richard III. 1483, was created earl of Surrey; and though he took part with the slain king, being taken prisoner at Bosworth-field fighting in his own defence, yet did the conquering prince, Henry VII. receive him into his favor, made choice of him for one of his privy council, and in 1488 restored him to his title of earl of Surrey, and employed him to restrain the Scots incursions, and the northern insurrections: about this time he shared with Maurice, brother of William marquis of Berkeley, the lands which came to them by inheritance, by reason of his descent from the coheirs to Mowbray duke of Norfolk. In 1499 he attended the king and queen to Calais; and the next year was advanced to the high office of lord treasurer of England, and so much was he in his master's favor, that he constituted him one of his executors; and immediately after the accession of Henry VIII. that prince nominated him one of his privy council, renewed his patent of lord treasurer, and the year following made him earl marshal of England for life. In 1512, being sent general of the English forces against the Scots, he

he flew James IV. king of Scotland, and routed their army at Flodden-field; for which great service a special grant passed by the king's order, that he, and the heirs male of his body, should for ever bear, 'as an honorable augmentation to his arms, on the bend of the Howards arms, the upper half of a red lion, (depicted as the arms of Scotland are) pierced through the mouth with an arrow. In 1513, February 1, the king advanced him to the dignity of duke of Norfolk, which title John, his father, (deriving his descent, through the heirs female of Mowbray and Segrave, from Thomas of Brotherton, son to Edw. I.) did enjoy. At the same time he had a new patent for the office of lord treasurer, and a grant of divers lordships and manors from the crown, and confirmation of many others; among which the honor and manor of Forncet, then valued at 44l. per ann. and its appendages of Swanton, Southgate, and Gallowgreen, were included; and in 1516 he issued his letters to sir Nicholas Appleyard, knt. chief steward of his honor, and to other the learned counsel of the law, who were constantly retained by him, and to John Crane, his high bailiff, to renew the extents, rentals, and evidences, of the honor and manors belonging thereto, which was done very exactly. In 1521 he performed the office of lord high steward at the trial of Edward duke of Buckingham, and gave sentence of death upon him, but not without tears; and in 1522 obtained a grant to his son, Thomas earl of Surrey, of part of the said duke's lands; and resigning to him his office of lord treasurer of England, he retired, with the king's leave, to his castle at Framlingham, in Suffolk, where he kept an honorable house to his death, and being above eighty years of age, died there, on the 1st of May, 1524; and when he was carried out of that castle, towards his burial in the abbey church at Thetford, "he cude

"not be asked one grote for his debte," as appears from an exact account of his life, which was fixed on a table by his monument. He married two wives; first, Elizabeth, daughter and sole heiress to sir Frederick Tilney, knt. and widow of sir Humphrey Bourchier, knt. lord Berners, by whom he had eight sons, of which Henry, John, Charles, Henry, and Richard, all died young, and the other three survived him. viz.

1. Thomas, his eldest son, created earl of Surrey in his father's life-time.

2. Sir Edward Howard, knight of the garter, and lord admiral, was a man of as great account as any of his cotemporaries. In 1491 he was in an expedition then made into Flanders, in favor of the emperor Maximilian. In 1509 he was made standard bearer to Henry VIII. who in 1512 constituted him lord high admiral of England, when he convoyed the marquis of Dorset into Spain, to aid Ferdinand the emperor against the French; and having scoured the seas, he landed in Britaigny, did great execution in that country, and returned home laden with honor and spoils. This put the French to re-inforce their navy, and that encouraged the king to do the same; upon which, to the honor of this lord admiral, he searched for the French, and met them coming out of Brest, and, after a sharp encountre, obtained a signal victory. He was also sent after sir Andrew Barton, the famous "Scotch pirate," whom he fought and took. Afterwards the French could never dare to look out of Brest, so that resolving to attempt them in their harbour, he entered a galley, and boarding the admiral of the French galleys, the grapplings giving way, the galleys parted, and he was left in his enemies hands, where fighting courageously, in
the

the heat of the action he was borne over board, and lost his life. He married Alice, sister and heiress to Henry Lovel, lord Morley, and widow of sir William Parker, knt. she died April, 1513. His brother,

3. Lord Edmund Howard, was at Flodden-field, and with his elder brother, lord Thomas earl of Surrey, led the van-guard of the army, and behaved very gallantly; he was then a knight, and marshal of the host. He married, first, Joice, daughter of sir Richard Culpepper, of Hollingborne, in Kent, by whom he had three sons; Henry, who died an infant; sir George Howard, knighted in Scotland by Edward duke of Somerset, in 1546; and sir Charles, slain in France; all dying without issue; and five daughters; 1. Margaret, married sir Thomas Arundel, knt. grandfather to Thomas the first lord Arundel, of Wardour. 2. Catherine queen of England, fifth wife to Henry VIII. 3. Mary, married Edward Trafford, esq. 4. Joice, married John Stanney, esq. 5. Isabel, married — Bainton, esq. His second wife was Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Troys, esq. by whom he had no issue.

The said duke by his first wife had also three daughters:

1. Elizabeth, married sir Thomas Boleyn, afterwards viscount Rochford, earl of Wiltshire and Ormond, by whom she was mother of queen Ann Boleyn, who had by Henry VIII. her husband, Elizabeth queen of England.

2. Muriel, who first married John Grey, viscount Lisle, by whom she had Elizabeth, wife of Henry Courtney, and secondly, to sir Thomas Knevet, knt. and had issue sir Henry Knevet.

The aforefaid Duke's fecond wife was Agnes, daughter of Hugh Tilney, efq. fifter and heirefs to fir Philip Tilney, of Bolton, in Lincolnshire, knt. and had iffue by her,

1. William, afterwards created baron Howard, of Effingham, of whose descendants more will occur hereafter.

2. Sir Thomas, who marrying lady Margaret Douglas, daughter to Margaret queen of Scots, niece to king Henry, was attainted of treason, on fome fufpicion of his afpiring to the crown, and died in the Tower of London.

3. Richard, who died march 27, 1517, and was buried at Lambeth, with two others of his brothers who died infants, and four daughters.

1. Anne, the eldeft, married to John Vere, earl of Oxford, but left no iffue by him.—2. Dorothy, to Edward Stanley, earl of Derby.—3. Elizabeth, to Henry Ratcliff, earl of Suffex.—4. Katherine, married firft to fir Rhesap-Thomas, and afterwards to Henry Daubeney, earl of Bridgewater.

13. Thomas, earl of Surrey, eldeft fon to the laft mentioned duke, fucceeded him in his honors; in his father's life-time he commanded a fhip under his brother Edward, who was then lord admiral, when the famous pirate fir Andrew Barton was taken, in 1512. He accompanied the marquis of Dorfet into Spain, in aid of king Ferdinand, againft the French; and the faid marquis falling fick, he had the command of the Englifh army. In 1513, upon the death of lord Edward, his brother, being then knight of the garter, he was conftituted lord high admiral in his

his fleet, and so scoured the seas, that not a French fishing-boat durst be seen; and landing in Whitland-bay, he ravaged the country thereabouts. Upon the invasion of James IV. in Scotland, he landed 5000 veterans, and joined his father, the earl of Surrey, then general of the English army, sending a message to that king to justify sir Adrew Barton's death; at the battle of Floddon-field he behaved gallantly, when he commanded the vanguard with his younger brother, Edmund, who being in great distress, was succoured by him and sir Edward Stanley; and in recompence of these signal services, he was, soon after, created earl Surrey, the same day that his father was made duke of Norfolk, in the fifth year of Henry VIII. and on a dispute in parliament concerning his place there, it was declared that he should sit according to his creation, and not as a duke's eldest son. In 1520, being appointed lord deputy of Ireland, he suppressed the O'Neal's and O'Carrols, and governed so acceptably, that he gained the love of that country. Afterwards, having performed many signal services in France, he was constituted lord-treasurer, and made general of the king's whole army, designed to march against the Scots, and all this in his father's life-time; after whose death he was again made general of the army, at that time raised to advance into Scotland, to set the young king free, whom the duke of Albany kept then in custody at Sterling castle. He afterwards attended the king into France, and was sent chief ambassador to the French king, to attend him to Nice, and commune with the pope, as to his delaying king Henry's divorce. In 1536 he marched to the assistance of the earl of Shrewsbury, when he suppressed the resurrection in Yorkshire, called "the pilgrimage of grace," raised on account of the dissolution of the lesser monastries, and was soon after made lieutenant-general of all the king's forces beyond

beyond the Trent. But after all these signal services, (so little gratitude reigns among the great) by the insinuating persuasions of some of the nobility (because on some occasion he had called them "the *new* raised men," which they counted a dishonor to them) the king was so far misled and incensed against him, that he not only sent him prisoner to the Tower, but gave order for seizing his goods, and gave notice to his ambassadors abroad, that he and his son had conspired to take upon them the government during his life, and after his death to get the prince into his hands; all which jealousies (the king being in a decaying and weak condition) so far prevailed, that the duke, and his son, Henry earl of Surrey, were both attainted in parliament; the earl lost his head, and the duke had fared no better, had not the death of that inexorable prince hastened him to give an account of his own actions, at that bar to which he had so lately sent the son, and designed to have hurried the father also. However, though his life was spared, yet his enemies so far prevailed over him in the reign of Edward VI. that though a pardon was given by proclamation to all persons of what crimes soever, yet was he, with five others, excepted by name. As to the particulars laid to his charge, though the act of attainder itself be not on record, the act of repeal in the reign of queen Mary I. reciteth, that there was no special matter in the act of attainder, but only general words of treason and conspiracy, and that out of their care for the preservation of the king and prince they passed it. And this act of repeal further sets forth, "that the only thing with which he stood charged, was for bearing of arms, which he and his ancestors had borne both within and without the kingdom, in the king's presence, and sight of his progenitors, which they might lawfully bear and give, as by good and substantial matter of record it did

did appear." It also addeth, "that the king died after the date of the commission." Likewise, "that he only empowered them to give his consent, but but did not give it himself; and that it did not appear by any record that they had given it." Moreover, that the king did not sign the commission with his own hand, his stamp being only set to it, and that not at the upper part, but to the nether part of it, contrary to the king's custom." At the attainder all the manors and estates of the duke were seized, and among others, the manor and honor of Forncet, of which a curious survey was then made. He afterwards retreated to his palace at Kenninghall, in Norfolk, where he died in 1554, and was buried at Framlingham, in Suffolk.

He had two wives; the first was Anne, third daughter to king Edward IV. by whom he had a son named Thomas, who died young on the third of August in the twenty-third year of the reign of Henry VII. and was buried at Lambeth, though she lies buried at Framlingham, in Suffolk.

His second wife was Elizabeth Stafford, eldest daughter to Edward duke of Buckingham, by whom he had two sons*; Henry, earl of Surrey†, beheaded in

* He had four daughters, Jane, wife of Charles Neville, earl of Westmoreland; Margaret, married to Henry lord Scroop, of Bolton; Katherine, to Henry lord Berkeley.

† This Henry earl of Surrey married Frances, daughter to John Vere, earl of Oxford. Thomas the fourth duke of Norfolk, and Henry, were restored in blood in Parliament in the first year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, and on May 1, in the reign of James I. he was made privy-counsellor, warden of the Cinque-ports, and constable of Dover-castle; and the 13th of March following he was advanced to the title and honor of baron of Marnhill, in Dorsetshire, and dignity of earl of Northampton, and one of the commissioners for the office of earl marshal of England, and April 24, 1605, made knight of

in his life-time, and Thomas, who married Elizabeth, one of the daughters and co-heiresses to John lord Marney, and Christian, his wife, daughter and heiress of sir Roger Newburgh, knt. He had livery of the lands of her inheritance, was restored in blood in the first of queen Mary I. and in the first year of the reign of queen Elizabeth was advanced to the title of viscount Howard, of Bindon in Dorsetshire, and soon after summoned to parliament, and died, February 14, 1582, leaving four sons; Henry, who succeeded him in his honor, but dying without male issue, Thomas, his next brother, enjoyed the title of viscount Howard, of Bindon, and was installed knight of the garter in the fourth year of the reign of James I. but died without issue.

14. Thomas, the eldest son of Henry earl of Surrey, on the death of his grandfather became the fourth duke of Norfolk, of this family, being then upwards of eighteen years of age: he was fully restored in blood, and the act of his grandfather's attainder made void in the reign of Mary I. In the second year of that queen he commanded the forces against the Kentish men, and continued in esteem all her reign, and was installed knight of the garter in the first of Elizabeth; and in the third year of the reign of that queen he was constituted lieutenant-general for the northern part of the realm. In 1565 he, with Robert earl of Leicester, was solemnly invested with the habit and ensigns of the order of St. Michael, in the chapel of the queen's palace at Westminster, by an embassy sent from the French king. In the eleventh year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, being suspected to be not only a favorer but a great admirer

the garter; and in 1608 lord privy-seal: he died June 25, 1614, and lies buried under a goodly monument in the church of Dover-castle. He was a man of ready wit, surprising eloquence, and excellent learning, and died single at his house, Charing-Cross.

mirer of Mary queen of Scots, he was cast into prison, accused of designing to marry her, tried, condemned, and beheaded, June 2, 1572, in the fifteenth year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, on Tower-hill*, to the great grief of many, for he was a good man, and much beloved by his country.

He married three wives, first, Mary, daughter and co-heiress to Henry Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, by whom he had Philip earl of Arundel, his son and heir. She died at Arundel-house in the Strand, Aug. 25, 1557, and was buried in St. Clement's church, near Temple-bar.

His second wife was Margaret, daughter and sole heiress to Thomas lord Audley, of Walden, chancellor of England, widow of Henry Dudley, a younger son to John Duke of Northumberland, who was slain at St. Quintin's, in Picardy, in 1557, by whom he had Thomas, afterwards lord Howard, of Walden, and duke of Suffolk, (of whose descent more hereafter). Secondly, William lord Howard, of Naworth-castle, in Cumberland, born Dec. 19, 1563, and two daughters, Elizabeth, who died an infant, and is buried at Framlingham, in Suffolk, and Margaret, born Aug. 1, 1562, afterwards married to Robert Sackville, earl of Dorset. This duchess died at Norwich in 1563, and is buried in the church of St. John Maddermarket.

His third wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Francis Leibourn, knt. widow of Thomas lord Dacres.
of

* He was a great friend and benefactor to the office of arms, was earl of Surrey, earl marshal of England, lord Mowbray, Segrave, and Bruse of Gower, and privy counsellor. He is buried in the chapel of the Tower, and she at Kenninghall.

of Gilliland, by whom he had no issue. She died in 1567, and was buried at Kenninghall.

15. Philip Howard, son and heir to the last mentioned duke, was earl of Surrey, lord Howard, Mowbray, Segrave, and Bruse of Gower, and earl marshal of England; also, in right of his mother, he assumed the title and honor of earl of Arundel, with the appurtenances thereof, it having been antiently adjudged in parliament to be a local dignity, so that the possessors thereof should enjoy that title of honor. Whereupon he sat in Parliamant by the title of Philip earl of Arundel in the twenty-third year of the reign of queen Elizabeth, in which parliament he was restored in blood from the attainder of his father, Thomas duke of Norfolk, beheaded in the year 1572.

This noble peer being a most zealous papist, was much maligned; being accused to queen Elizabeth by some of his potent adversaries for holding a correspondence with cardinal Allen, Parsons the Jesuit, and others, she took a great dislike to him; for which reason, after the strict laws made against the papists, he endeavoured to go beyond the seas without leave, but being discovered, was apprehended and committed to the Tower, in the year 1584, and his estate seized; and among others, this honor and manor of Forncet, of which the queen took immediate possession, and demised part of it to William Pennant for twenty-one years, namely, all that part which, after the attainder of Thomas, late duke of Norfolk, had been granted the lady Mary, the then king's sister, and by her had been leased to the said William. In 1586 he was fined 10,000l. pounds in the star-chamber for his misdemeanors and attempt to go beyond the seas; and three years after was arraigned and

and condemned by his peers in Westminster-hall for divers practices in relation to his religion, and favoring of the Spaniards; nevertheless, by the queen's grace, he obtained her pardon for his life, but continued prisoner in the Tower, and at length died in custody there, Nov. 19, 1595, being not full forty years of age, having, during his imprisonment, lived in the severity of his religion a most strict and austere life. He married Anne, sister and co-heiress to George lord Dacres, of Gillsland, by whom he had his only son.

16. Thomas earl of Arundel, who was born during his father's imprisonment, and was restored in blood by James I. in the year 1602, in the parliament held at Westminster in the first year of his reign, and had livery of all estates from that prince, and, among others, of his honor and manor of Forncet.

He was earl of Arundel and Surrey, earl marshal, and premier earl of all England, knight of the most noble order of the garter, one of his majesty's most honorable privy-council, and lord steward of the household, and by Charles I. was constituted chief justice of the forests north of the Trent, and general of the army in the first expedition to Scotland, in the year 1638. He sat as lord high steward of England in Westminster-hall, at the remarkable trial of Thomas Wentworth, earl of Stafford; shortly after which, foreseeing the civil wars then beginning in England, he willingly resigned his staff of lord steward of the household, resolving to travel. His lady also took the the same resolution, and a fair and honorable opportunity presently offered, for the queen mother of France, having been in England about two years, was at this time necessitated to return, and the

the care of conducting her to the sea-side, and waiting on her over, was committed to this earl, who afterwards spent some time at Utrecht, but in the winter returned to England, and by reason of his special services and great merits, as also in respect of his lineal descent from Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, (a younger son to Edward I.) was by letters patent, dated June 6, in the 20th of Charles I. advanced to the title of earl of Norfolk; shortly after which, discerning the flames of war to encrease daily, his age and infirmities also rendering him unfit for any further employment, he obtained leave of the king to travel; whereupon retiring to Padua, in Italy, he died there, Sept. 14, 1646, in the 61st year of his age, and his corpse being brought over, was buried at Arundel, in Suffex. He married lady Alatheia*, one of the daughters and coheiresses of Gilbert Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, by whom he had issue, 1. James lord Mowbray, and lord Maltravers, who was one of the knights of the bath at the coronation of Charles I. and after making the tour of France, and Italy, died in his return, at Gaunt, in Flanders, unmarried. 2. Henry lord Mowbray, who succeeded him. 3. Thomas. 4. Gilbert. 6. Charles, who all died infants, in their father's life-time. William, the fifth son, married Mary, sister and sole heiress to Henry lord Stafford, and in the 16th of Charles I. was created baron of Stafford, and she at the same time baroness of Stafford, from whom the present earl of Stafford is descended. During this time this manor and honor passed in the trustees of the family, along with Fersfield manor.

This most noble earl was the greatest favorer of arts, and promoter of sciences, that we have met with

* She brought the title of baroness Strange, of Blackmere, to her husband.

with. He had an excellent knowledge in painting, sculpture, carving, building, and designing, his collection of designs exceeding that of any person then living, and his statues were equal in number, value, and antiquity, to those in the houses of most princes; to gain which, he had persons many years employed both in Italy, Greece, and many parts of Europe where rarities were to be had; all which were by him placed in the garden, and certain rooms belonging to Arundel-house, in the Strand, and are accurately described in that tract of his, intitled "*Marmora Arundeliana*," and will remain a lasting monument of his highly deserved fame to future ages. Henry duke of Norfolk, his grandson, bestowing them on the university of Oxford, they were orderly placed in the walls, inclosing the stately theatre, but are since removed to a room over the Bodleian library.

His paintings likewise were numerous, and of the most excellent masters, having more of that exquisite painter, Hans Holben, than were in the world besides. He had the honor to be the first person of quality that set a value on them in our nation, being also the person that brought in uniformity of building, and was chief commissioner to see it performed in London; he was likewise sumptuous in his household stuff; full of state and magnificence in his entertainments, especially of strangers; at his table very free and pleasant; he was more learned in men and manners than in books, yet understood the Latin tongue very well, and was master of the Italian; he was a great favorer and admirer of learned men, as appears by his intimacy with Mr. Cambden, Mr. Selden, sir Robert Cotton, and sir Henry Spelman, the lights of their age. He was a promoter of order and ceremony, and kept greater distance towards his

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sovereign

sovereign than any person at court, often complaining, that the too great affability of the king, and the French garb of the court, would bring majesty into contempt. In council he was grave and succinct, rather discharging his conscience and honor, than complying with particular interests, and so was never at the head of business, or principal in favor. He was free from covetousness, and so much above a bribe of gratuity (for favors done) as no person ever durst tempt him with one. He was in his religion no bigot, or puritan, and professed more to affect moral virtues, than nice questions and foolish controversies; if he was defective in any thing, it was that he could not bring his mind to his fortune, which, though very great, was far too little for the vastness of his noble designs, which were only for the glory and ornament of his country, and may well be excused. When he was constituted earl marshal of England, he revived that honorable court, which had been anciently held by the constable and marshal jointly, wherein remedy was given for such abusive provocations as might occasion no little bloodshed by duels, or other mischievous ways of revenge; and some scruple being made as to the jurisdiction of earl marshal alone, he the year after obtained other letters patent, bearing date August 1, 1621, in the 20th of James I. whereby the king, after mature advice had with the lords of his council, did declare, that in the vacancy of the constable of England the earl marshal had the like jurisdiction in the court, as both constable and marshal, jointly, ever exercised, and commanded him to proceed accordingly; which he thereupon did, with much honor to himself and his authority, and to the great satisfaction of the nobility and gentry of the realm, in cases where they received such affronts and injuries; for
which

which (by the rule of the common law) no redress could be had, until by the votes of a predominant party in that parliament, (which destroyed monarchy and episcopacy, and brought all things into confusion) his jurisdiction in the court was questioned.

17. Henry Howard, lord Mowbray and Maltravers, (as he was called in his father's life-time, and as such sat in parliament) succeeded him in his honors. In 1626 he married lady Elizabeth Stuart, eldest daughter of Esme Stuart, lord of Aubigny, earl of March, and afterwards duke of Lenox, but it being without the king's consent, he and his lady were confined some time to Lambeth, with archbishop Abbot; but after that he was called up by writ to the house of peers, as lord Mowbray and Maltravers. When the rebellion broke out in 1461, he faithfully adhered to the king, and served in his army till about the end of the year 1465, when he visited his father in Italy, was with him when he died, and returned with his corpse into England. During the tyrannic government of his native country under Cromwell, he lived retired to his death, which happened April 17, 1652, when he was buried at Arundel. He had by his lady nine sons, and three daughters, whereof Ann died young; Catherine married John Digby, of Gothurst, in Buckinghamshire, esq. and Elizabeth, Alexander Macdonnel, grandson to the earl of Antrim, in Ireland: his sons were, Thomas, Henry, Philip*, Charles, Talbot, Edward, Francis, Bernard, and Esme.

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18. Thomas

* Philip Howard, the third son, travelling with his grandfather, Thomas earl of Arundel, into Italy, took up the habit of a Dominican, or black friar, at Cremona, at fifteen years of age; and on the marriage of Charles II. with Catherine the Infanta

18. Thomas Howard succeeded him in his titles of earl of Arundel, Surrey, and Norfolk; and after the restoration of Charles II. in the year 1661, at the humble petition of James Howard, earl of Suffolk, Thomas Howard, earl of Berkshire, William Howard, viscount Stafford, Charles lord Howard, of Charlton, Edward lord Howard, of Esrick, Charles lord Howard, of Naworth, all lineally descended from Thomas the last duke of Norfolk, and above eighty others of the nobility, he was restored by act of parliament to the title of duke of Norfolk, to remain to him and the heirs male of his body, with all the privileges, precedencies, and pre-eminences thereunto belonging; by which he became the fifth duke of Norfolk: but dying at Padua, in Italy, in 1678, unmarried, the title and estate descended to his next brother,

19. Henry Howard, the sixth duke of Norfolk, who on March 26, 1669, in the 21st of Charles II. was created lord Howard, of Castle-Rising, in the county of Norfolk; and on the 29th of December, 1672, in consideration of the eminent services done by his noble father and grand-father, to Charles I. and the crown of England, at home and abroad, as also for many personal services performed to Charles II. in his exile, was created earl of Norwich, which honor was limited to him: and the heirs male of his body; and also by the same patent had the office and dignity of earl marshal of England granted, with all rights, powers, jurisdictions, precedencies, and authorities thereto belonging, &c. to him and the heirs

fanta of Portugal, became lord almoner to her, and continued in her service several years; but retiring to Bornheim, in Flanders, to an English convent of his own order, he had a cardinal's cap sent to him there by pope Clement X. in May, 1675, and made his public entry into Rome with great magnificence.

heirs male of his body; and for default of such issue, to the heirs male of the body of lord William Howard, of Naworth, in the county of Cumberland, youngest son to Thomas duke of Norfolk, (who was beheaded in the 15th of Elizabeth); and for default of such issue, to Charles Howard, earl of Nottingham, and the heirs male of his body. He was born July 12, 1628, and died at his house in Arundel-street, Jan. 11, 1683. He married to his first wife, lady Ann Somerset, eldest daughter to Edward marquis of Worcester, by Elizabeth Dormer, his first wife, and by her he had two sons and three daughters; by his second wife, Jane, daughter of Robert Bickerton, esq. gentleman of the wine cellar to Charles II. (a lady famed for her beauty and accomplishments) he had, first, lord George Howard, who married Arabella, daughter and sole heiress to sir Edmund Allen, of Hatfield-Peverel, in the county of Essex, bart. widow of Francis Thompson, of Humbleton, in the county of York, esq. and died March 6, 1720, without issue. The second son was lord James Howard, who died a bachelor, being drowned in August, 1702, attempting to ride over Sutton-wash, in Lincolnshire. The third son was lord Frederick Henry Howard, who married Catherine, daughter to sir Francis Blake, of Oxfordshire, relict of sir Richard Kennedy, of Mount Kennedy, in Ireland, bart. and died March 16, 1726, his lady surviving, who died January 23, 1731. Lady Catherine, and lady Ann, both nuns in Flanders; and lady Philippa, married to William Standish, of Standish-hall, in the county of Lancaster, esq. and died in January, 1683.

The duke's daughters by his first wife were, the ladies Ann-Alathea, Elizabeth, and Frances, whereof the latter was married to the marquis Valparefa, a

Spanish nobleman in Flanders; the second, to Alexander Gordon, marquis of Huntley, in Scotland, who was created duke of Gordon in that kingdom; and the eldest died in her infancy. His sons were, Henry, and Thomas—This lord Thomas Howard, at the coronation of James II. as lord of the manor of Worklop, in Nottinghamshire, claimed to find the king a right-hand glove, and to support the king's right arm while he held the sceptre; and it being allowed, he performed that service. In 1685 he was made master of the robes to James II. and being of the Romish religion, was in great esteem at court; so that in 1688, when king James withdrew himself into France, this lord soon after attended him into Ireland; but in his return to Brest was unhappily cast away at sea, in November, 1689. His lordship, in October, 1681, married Mary Elizabeth, daughter and sole heiress of sir John Savile, of Copley, in the county of York, bart. who died in November, 1733, and by her left a daughter, Mary, married to Walter lord Astin, of Forfar, in Scotland, and seated at Standon, in Hertfordshire, and died in 1723; he had five sons, Thomas the eighth duke of Norfolk, &c.

20. Henry Howard, seventh duke of Norfolk, was born Jan. 11, 1654, and on January 27, 1677, was summoned to parliament by writ by the title of lord Mowbray; and upon the death of prince Rupert was made constable of Windsor-castle, warden of Windsor-forest, and lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the counties of Norfolk, Surrey, and Berks; and on May 6, 1685, in the 1st of James II. being elected knight of the most noble order of the garter, he was installed the 22d of July following. This Duke obtained a commission under the great seal,
dated

dated August 13, 1687, in the 3d of James II. whereby his grace, as earl marshal of England, should revive and hold a court of chivalry, &c. and setting out for France the 24th of March following, constituted his brother, lord Thomas Howard, his lieutenant in the court of chivalry, and sir Thomas Exton, and sir Richard Raines, surrogates. His grace returned from Flanders July 30, 1688; and on the landing of the prince of Orange in England, being then in Norfolk, he immediately declared for him, and brought over this, and some of the adjacent counties, to his interest, for which service he was soon after sworn of his privy-council, and so continued to his death; afterwards he was made constable and governor of his majesty's royal castle at Windsor, lord warden of Windsor-forest, lord lieutenant of the counties of Norfolk, Surrey, and Berks, and of the city of Norwich, and county of the same, as also custos rotulorum for the counties of Norfolk and Berks, and fellow of the royal society. He died at his house in St. James's-square, April 2, 1701, having married the lady Mary Mordaunt, daughter and sole heiress to Henry earl of Peterborough, from whom he procured a divorce in parliament for incontinency, which in the year 1700 passed both houses; and having no children by her, he was enabled to marry again; but leaving no issue, his honor and estate descended to the eldest son of his brother, lord Thomas, viz.

21. Thomas Howard, the eighth duke of Norfolk, who was born December 11, 1683; and in 1709 his grace was married to Mary, sole daughter and heiress to sir Nicholas Sherbourne, of Stonyhurst, in the county of Lancaster, bart. but dying without issue, Dec. 23, 1732, (Henry, his next brother,

ther, being dead without issue) his honor and estate went to his third brother,

22. Edward Howard, ninth duke of Norfolk, &c. lord of the honor and manors of Forncet. He married, in the year 1727, Mary, daughter to Edward Blount, of Blagden, near Torbay, in the county of Devonshire, esq. a younger son of sir George Blount, of Sodington, in Worcestershire, bart.

The honorable Richard Howard, his next brother, died without issue. Philip Howard, esq. of Buckenham-house, in Norfolk, his youngest brother, married January 7, 1723, Winifred, daughter of Thomas Stoner, of Wadlington-park, in the county of Oxford, esq. by whom he had a son, named Thomas, born February 3, 1727, since dead, and a daughter, named Winifred. Since the decease of his lady, he remarried, Nov. 1739, Mrs. Proley, widow, a sister to the duchess dowager of Norfolk, by whom he had no male issue. He died in the life-time of his brother, the late duke, on whose demise in 1777, without issue, the honors and estates devolved on the nearest heir male, Charles Howard, esq. of Greystock, in Cumberland.

23. The high, puissant, and most noble prince, CHARLES HOWARD, the present duke of Norfolk, earl marshal, and hereditary earl marshal of England*, earl of Arundel, Surrey, Norfolk, and Norwich,

* Creations.] Baron Howard by writ of summons to parliament by Henry VI. 15 Oct. 1470; 10th of IV. and also 19 Aug. 1472, 12th of Edward IV. earl marshal, and duke of Norfolk, and earl of Surrey, 28 June, 1483, 1st of Richard 3 confirmed earl of Surrey, 3 Nov. 1492, 8th of Henry VII. and

wich, baron of Mowbray, Howard, Segrave, Brewse of Gower, in Carmarthenshire, Fitz-Alan, Warren, Clun, Ofwaldestre, Maltravers, Greyflock, Furnival, Verdon, Lovetot, Strange, (of Blackmere) and Howard, of Castle-Rising, *premier* duke, earl, and baron of England, next the blood royal, chief of the truly illustrious family of the Howards, and lord of the honor and manors of Forncet.

His grace the present duke is decended from Charles, fourth son of Henry earl of Arundel, Surrey, and Norfolk, by Elizabeth, daughter of Esme Stuart, lord d'Aubigny, earl of March, afterwards duke of Richmond and Lenox.

He was born in 1720, and in 1739 was married to his present duchess, Catherine, daughter of Thomas Brockholes, esq. of Lancashire, by Mary, his wife, who is lineally descended from Henry lord Scroop, of Bolton, in Yorkshire, knight of the most noble order of the garter, by Eleanor, daughter of

and again 13 May, 1509, 1st of Henry VIII. again earl of Surrey, and duke of Norfolk, 1 Feb. 1513, 5th of Henry VIII. earl of Arundel, in the county of Suffex, (a feudal honor, or local dignity, as adjudged in parliament, 8 July, 1433, 11th of Henry VI.) by inheritance and possession of that castle only, without any other creation, also by summons to parliament, 16 Jan. 1580, 23d of Elizabeth. By descent originally, as well before as after the conquest, by William I. and by Maud the empress, in the time of king Stephen, confirmed by Henry II. and also June 27, 1189, 1st of Richard I. earl of Norfolk, 6 June, 1644, 20th of Charles I. duke of Norfolk by act of parliament, with an entail on the heirs male, and divers limitations; 8 May, 1669, 13th of Charles II. baron Howard, of Rising-Castle, in Norfolk; 27 March, 1669, 21st of Charles II. earl of Norwich, and hereditary earl marshal; 19 October, 1672, 24th of Charles II. baron Mowbray, by writ of summons to parliament; 6 March, 1678, 31st of Charles II. and likewise 21 March, 1639, 15th of Charles I. by descent, originally 8 June, 1294, 22d of Edward I.

of Edward lord North and Grey, which title of lord Scroop is now in abeyance. His grace has now living one son, Charles earl of Surrey, born in March, 1745, who in 1780 read his recantation, abjuring the errors and superstitions of the church of Rome; and in the same year was chosen one of the representatives for the city of Carlisle in the present parliament of Great Britain. His lordship is married, and has issue.

The duke of Norfolk has precedence of all other peers, next to the royal family, not only by creation, but in respect to his high office as earl marshal of England; yet after the lord great chamberlain, lord great constable, lord high admiral, lord high steward, chamberlain of the king's household, and lord privy seal.

The arms, crest, supporters, and motto, of his grace the duke of Norfolk are,—Arms, gul. on a bend between six crozlets fitchee arg. a shield or. therein a demi lion ramp. (pierced through the mouth with an arrow) within a double tressure counterflory of the first.—Crest, on a chapeau gul. turned up erm. a lion (or leopard) passant guardant, (his tail extended) gorged with a ducal coronet arg.*—Supporters, on the dexter side a lion, and on the sinister a horse, both arg. the latter holding a slip of oak fructed proper.—Motto.—*Sola virtus invicta*.

The chief seats of this family are at Arundel-castle, in Suffex, at Workshop-manor, in Nottinghamshire, at Deepden, in Surrey, and at Greystock, in Cumberland.

* This crest belongs to the duke, as being descended from Margaret, daughter and heiress of Thomas de Brotherton, fifth son of Edward I.

Cumbeland. They had formerly a seat at Kenninghall, in Norfolk, and a house in Norwich. Their town-house is in St. James's-square, London.

CLAVER'S, or CLAVERING'S MANOR, was originally part of the capital manor granted by the Bigots to John de Clavering, from whom it took its name, and was held of it at a quarter of a fee. In 1283 William le Claver, or Clavering, of Stirton, and Miles le Parker, of Stirton, settled it on Ralph de Creeping; and in 1286 John de Vaux was lord, and had free-warren allowed to it in *cire*. It afterwards belonged to John le Graunt; in 1306 to John Jermy; and in 1308 to Henry Page, in whose time an extent of it was made, and the customary perch, or pole, was then found to be sixteen feet and an half. It had a manor-house, and above eighty-six acres in demesne, twelve acres of wood, nine copy, or customary tenants, and sixty-five free-men. Thomas Brampton was lord, and held it in 1432 of John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, as of his honor here, in which family it continued till 1536, when William Brampton sold it to Thomas Reeve; and in 1570 it was sold to Edward Clere, esq. who in 1571 sold it to William Moore, gent. In 1605 Thomas Lingwood died seised of a moiety of it; it afterwards passed through the Cocks, and Edwards, and belonged to the late Mr. Mathew Gofs, a dyer, in Norwich.

Here are two churches now in use, which were given by Roger Bigot to the monks of Thetford, who released that gift very early; these churches were annexed very soon, for we never find them presented to separately, though Doomfday-book makes them both parish churches, governed by one rector, who had then in their right a house and forty
acres

acres of glebe. They were valued as one benefice at thirty marks: all the institutions are to Forncet only till 1465, and then to *Forncete utraque*; the rectory always paying double institution fees, shews it to have been an ancient consolidation, though for many ages St. Peter's church hath been esteemed as a chapel of ease to St. Mary, the mother church; there were anciently three guilds here.

The terriers have eighty-five acres of glebe, and a good parsonage-house, and it pays first-fruits and yearly tenths, it being valued at 20l. in the king's books.

The prior of Buckenham's temporals were taxed at 4d. and those of the monks of Thetford at 17s. 6d.

The whole town of Forncet St. Mary, or Forncet *Magna*, with Forncet St. Peter, or *Parva* Forncet, paid 3l. 10s. clear to every tenth. Here is a farm belonging to the girls hospital at Norwich.

In 1256 the rector of Forncet was presented by the prior of Thetford, but afterwards by the lords.

In 1541 Thomas duke of Norfolk presented John Richards, his domestic chaplain, and prebend of Norwich; and in 1578 the queen, by lapse, gave it to Robert Norgate, who was B. D. second prebendary of Ely, and master of Bennet College, in Cambridge.

In 1584 William Dix, and William Cautrell, feoffees to the duke of Norfolk, gave it to George Gardiner, dean of Norwich: and in 1630 Hugh Williams, A. M. had it by lapse; he was sequestered, and afterwards kept school at Low-Layton, in Essex.

In

In 1725 Rowland Hill, A. M. was presented by the honorable Richard Hill, the advowson having been purchased of the duke of Norfolk by Dr. Hill, who hath obliged his heirs for ever to present a fellow of St. John's College, in Cambridge, and accordingly at Mr. Hill's death the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, fellow there, was presented; and in 1764, November 30, fir Rowland Hill, bart. of Hawkestone, in Shropshire, presented the Rev. Zachariah Brooke, D. D. to the consolidated rectory of Forncet St. Mary, with St. Peter, *p. j.*

The church of St. Mary hath only a nave and chancel, both thatched, a north porch, which is leaded, and a square tower and three bells. There are no memorials in it.

The church of St. Peter hath its steeple round at bottom, and octangular at top, with five bells; the north porch, nave, and two ailes, are leaded, and the chancel is tiled.

In the communion rails, on the north side, on a black marble, with the arms of Aggas,—*William Aggas, A. M. who was twenty-seven years vicar of Hempnall, and twenty-three years rector of both the Forncets, September 4, 1724, aged 51.*

There is a black marble in the church,—*For Edmund Marcon, Sept. 16, 1709. Grace Marcon, Aug. 22, 1710. Edmund Marcon, his son, November 8, 1727. John Marcon, May 20, 1728, aged 39.—Richard Barker, obijt May 31, 1485.*

There is a curious altar-tomb, with the figures of a gentleman and his wife, engraved to their middle, erected to the memory of Thomas Drake, and Elizabeth,

beth, his wife; the inscription is now gone, but part of it remains in Weaver's Funeral Monuments, fol. 823.

Near it, on the ground, on a stone inlaid with brass plates,—*To Thomas Baxter, April 15, 1535.*—Three shields, two of Baxter, the third having the paternal arms of Drake.

FRITTON, called in Doomsday-book *Fredetuna*, *Fretuna*, *Fritletuna*, *Frietuna*, and *Frießluna*. The chief part of Fritton, or Free-town, to which the advowson belonged, was part of the honor and manor of Forncet, and from its enjoying the liberties of the honors that extended hither, it might take its name as being free from many things that other villages were subject to.

There was another small part held of the manor of Hempnall by Thomas Trot, in 1384. Robert Malet, lord of the honor Eye, which extends hither, had two free-men here, and their services.

The honor of Richmond also extends into this village, for in 1636 it appears, by the rolls of that honor, that Roger Ward, gent. was amerced 20s. for detaining from the king, as lord of the honor, 1d. a year of ware-pound rent for his lands in Fritton.

The abbot of St. Edmund had lands here belonging to his manor of Mourningthorpe, which he assigned with that manor to Robert de Vals, and it hath passed to this day with Mourningthorpe, or Thorpe-hall manor. To this also was joined one free-man, and two borderers under him, and their services, which belonged till then to the king's hundred of Depwade.

Besides

Besides these parts there was a considerable share of the parish, which in the Confessor's time was held by Olketel, a Dane, and freeman of Ederic de Laxfield's, the antecessor of Robert Malet, lord of Eye, and by Gisart, under Robert Fitz-Corbun, at the conquest; and there were then seven tenants of this manor that had power to sell their land, if their lord refused to purchase it of them; it was always worth 25s. and had the liberty of foldage; the town was a mile long, half a mile broad, and paid 9d. to the gelt. This was afterwards called Boyland manor, and hath passed ever since as Boyland-hall, in Mourn-ingthorpe.

Another part of this village extended into Henslead hundred, and was held of Roger Bigot's manor of Forncet at the twentieth part of a fee, by Rainulf, or Ralph, and belonged to Ulf, the Dane, in the Confessor's time.

In 1264 Roger le Hayre, Eyre, or Ayer, was found to be a rebel against Henry III. and to hold a manor in Fritton of 100s. value, which the king seized; but in 1276 it was restored to William le Ayer; in 1306 Roger Ryvet had it; and in 1432 John Storer, and after that Roger Bennet, by whom it was sold to the lord of Boyland, and so became joined to it.

The Manor of BAVENT'S, BURTOFT'S, and HEMENHALE'S, was infeoffed by the lord of Forncet in Peter Fitz-Nicholas, to be held of Forncet at the fourth part of a fee; and in 1198 he settled it by fine on Eustace de Bavent, and his heirs. About 1210 Ralf de Fretton, and John, his son, were lords; and in 1245 John de Burtoft, who in 1264 was found to be one of the rebels against Henry III. but having obtained his pardon in 1285, his son possessed it

it. In 1315 sir John de Sturmyn, knt. was lord, and in 1327 had a charter for a weekly market, and yearly fair here, and for free-warren in this town, Stratton, and Mourningthorpe. In 1329 Ralf de Burtoft sold it to John de Hemenhale, and in 1331 the rest of his lands here; it continued in that family till about 1400, and then James Rees, and Edmund Young-husband, held the lands and scite of Hemenhale, *alias* Burtoft's manor, in Fritton; but the manor continued with Hempnall, and lord viscount Grimston now hath it*.

The church is dedicated to St. Catherine, was valued in the old taxation at sixteen marks, and had a house and eleven acres of glebe. The whole village paid 3l. 10s. clear to every tenth. It stands thus in the king's books:—9l. Fritton rectory; 40l. clear yearly value.—It is discharged of first-fruits and tenths, and is capable of augmentation.

There is a messuage and ten acres of town land, and the following religious houses had temporals here, taxed as follow:—the prior of the monks at Thetford 30s. The abbot of Wymondhom 10d. The prior of Dunmow 2s. And the sacrist of St. Edmund at Bury 4s. 4d.

Robert de Bosco, or Boys, of Great Thornham, rector here, purchased the parsonage-house, and a 2d. rent in 1319, of William le Eyre, and settled it on the church by licence of mortmain from Edward II. who presented him.

In

* On account of exchanges made between the lords of Boyland and Burtoft's, it hath passed by the name of Fritton *cum* Boyland for some time.

In 1603 the rector returned eighty-eight communicants; and in 1627 Ralph Smith, of Fritton, gent. (having purchased the advowson of the Norfolk family) presented George Cook, who in 1636 was suspended by bishop Wren, for not complying with the rubric; but after his submission he was restored, and died rector.

In 1714 John Howse, sen. esq. had purchased the advowson, and presented; at whose decease John Howse, esq. his son, was patron.

The present patron and incumbent is the Rev. Thomas Howes, of Mourningthorpe, in 1763, and 1775, *p. j.*

The church and chancel are leaded, the south porch is tiled, the steeple is round at bottom, and octangular at top, and hath three bells.

There is no memorial of any kind in this fabric, except the arms of Bigot, Thetford abbey, and Brotherton, in the chancel windows.

In the yard, against the south chancel wall, under an altar-tomb, lies buried,—*Thomas Holmes, rector here fourteen years; he died in August, 1729, aged 44.*

FUNDENHALL, or FUNDENHALE, at the Confessor's survey belonged to one of his thanes, named Burkart, who owned the chief part, and was patron of the church, which had then twenty-four acres of glebe. Aluric, a freeman of bishop Stigand, had another part; and there was a berewic in Nelonde which belonged to it.

Walter de Dol, lord of Habetuna, or Hapton' became lord here, and made these two villages one manor; he had them both of Roger Bigot, who held them of earl Hugo, except two parcels, which the said Roger kept as belonging to his manor of Forncet, with which they always passed to this time. This town was a league in length, and half a one in breadth, and paid 13d. ob. to the tax.

The manor was very early in a family which took their name from the town of North Creak, where they were lords, and always resided. Sir Robert de Creak much augmented his estate by marrying one of the heiresses of the Glanville family. John de Creak in 1285 obtained a charter of free-warren from Edward I. for this manor, and that of Creak, when it was found that it extended into Hapton and Wymondham, and that one fee of it was held of Chester honor, and another of the earl Marthal, as of Forncet manor; but he dying without issue, his inheritance went to sir John de Thorpe, knt. in right of Margaret, (or Margery) his wife, daughter of sir Robert de Creak; and from this time it always passed as the manor of Ashwelthorpe, with which it still remains at this day.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and was a rectory appendant to the manor, till Margery, widow of sir Bartholomew de Creak, foundress of Flixton nunnery, in Suffolk, gave it*, with a mesuage, and twelve acres of land, and many rents and services heret, to the prioress of Flixton, and her successors, for ever; and that convent presented till

* It continued in the convent till 1392, and then the prioress there sold it to sir Edmund de Thorpe, knt.

† This constituted the rectory manor, which always attended the impropriation.

till it was impropriated to their house, by William Bateman, bishop of Norwich, in 1347. an annual pension of two marks being reserved to the bishop, in lieu of first-fruits; and 2s. a year to the sacrist, as to the high altar at the cathedral, and the prioress was to nominate and find a stipendiary chaplain, to be approved by the bishop, and pay him for serving the cure; and from that time it hath been a donative, in the gift of the impropriator, who names a chaplain, or clerk, and pays him for serving the cure, to which, when licensed by the bishop of the diocese, he is a perpetual curate.

When Norwich Domesday-book was made, the rector had a house and forty acres of glebe, and it was valued at fifteen marks, with all the tithes.

In 1273 an inquisition was taken in the consistory court at Norwich, on the oaths of John vicar of Thorpe, Roger vicar of Tharston, Gilbert chaplain of Hapton, and others, who presented that the rector for the time being ought to repair the church of Fundenhall, and, if it should happen, to rebuild it; and that a certain lady, called Bertha de Glanville de Fundenhale, gave to the said church, and rectors thereof, *for ever*, fifteen acres of land in Fundenhall-field, and a mark yearly rent in the town of Harpol, on condition that the rector and his successors, *for ever*, should repair and rebuild it as often as it should happen to want, which lands and rent the rector then enjoyed; and that in a former controversy between the parishioners and Robert du Boys, then rector, it was adjudged by the bishop's official, that the rector should repair it, and not the parishioners.

At the dissolution, in 1536, the king granted to Richard Stephens, and George Buck, "all the rec-

tory of the church of Fundenhall, in the county of Norfolk, and the advowson of the vicarage of the parish church of Fundenhall, to be held by the rent of 6s. 8d. per annum, and the yearly stipend of one chaplain performing Divine offices, and taking the cure of the souls of the said parish;" and in 1547 Stephens had licence to sell it to sir John Clere, knt. and his heirs. Afterwards Thomas Knevet, of Ashwelthorpe, esq. lord here, and the inhabitants, petitioned the house of commons, " that the lady Clere, of Cotton, late wife of sir Francis Clere, and John Smith, esq. who purchased the reversion of the impropriation of sir Edward Clere, brother to the said sir Francis, who died without issue, might be called to shew, why they should not pay a competent stipend out of the profits, sufficient to find a serving minister, that might serve it regularly, and continue with them, instead of such poor stipends as twelve or sixteen pounds a year, at most, by reason of which no minister would stay any time on the cure, there having been forty returns of curates in the memory of one man;" but it appearing that one Mr. Symonds, who obtained a presentation from the king in 1608, could not enjoy it, as not being presentative, but that the impropiator was to nominate a chaplain, or curate, and pay him out of the profits a competent stipend, they were dismissed; however, Mr. Edward Voice, the then curate, being returned to the house as a " Godly, conscionable, and painful preacher of God's word," was appointed minister, and had a competent stipend* assigned him out of the profits, by virtue of the order of the House, made Dec. 19, 1640. The impropriation now belongs to John Berney,

* They petitioned for 30l. per annum, and an apartment in the parsonage-house, which was not allowed, but only 20l. per annum.

ney, esq. of Bracon-ash, and the Rev. Thomas Mooney had this curacy in 1766.

In 1603 the curate returned answer, that he was perpetual curate, it being a donative, and that there were ninety-three communicants in the parish, which paid 46s. to each tenth.

The prior of Wymondham's temporals were taxed at 12. and the spirituals of the prioress of Flixton* at fifteen marks, and were to pay 20s. to each tenth; but in 1347 the nuns being returned to be very poor, they were excused the tax. Here was a guild of St. Nicholas, and that of the Virgin, in the church, which is built in the collegiate form, with a square tower, under which William Petifer, parish chaplain, was buried, in 1374; and in 1460 William Norman, parish chaplain here, was interred in the chancel; he was a benefactor, as was John Daniel, who gave twenty marks to repair this steeple, in which there are three bells.

The rood-loft is whole and painted; in the middle of it is a shield with the East Angles arms, and round it,—*Ave rex gentis Anglorum, tu rex regis Anglorum.*
O Eadmund! flos martyrum, velud rosa vel lilium, &c.

There are two or three stones disrobed of their plates, under one of which lies buried John Kemp, of Fundenhall, who inherited an estate here. There was anciently a manor, or free tenement, called Sun-

G 3 day's

* In 1433 Catherine Pilly, prioress of Flixton, resigned, being old and blind; but as she had governed well and laudably, the bishop, as patron of the nunnery, assigned her a chamber, and maid to wait on her, and an honorable pension for life, out of this impropriation.

day's, which was joined to the other manor early, and now continues with it. William Knyvet, gent. second son to Edmund Knyvet, esq. serjeant porter to Henry VIII. died, in 1594, and was buried in the church of Fundenhall, where he lived; and John Knyvet, of Fundenhall, his eldest son, married Joan, daughter of Robert Browne, of Tacolneston, and had John Knyvet, of Fundenhall, who married Joanna Sutton, from whom descended William Knyvet, esq. of Fundenhall, late coroner for the county of Norfolk.

HAPTON, HAPETON, HABETON, or HARPTON advowson, was given by sir Robert de Narford*, founder of Lingericroft hospital, by North Creak, afterwards called the monastery of St. Mary de Pratis, or Creak abbey, to that house, to which it was appropriated, and was to be served by a chaplain, or parish curate, to be nominated by the convent, and paid a competent annual stipend for the service out of the profits; and Alice, daughter of John Pounchard, formerly wife of sir Robert de Narford, confirmed it, with the moiety of the church of Wrenningham, as did Edward I. in 1273.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, was first valued at seven, and after at eight marks, had twenty-three acres of glebe, and the abbot of Creak paid for his spirituals 10s. 8d. to each tenth, and for his temporals 25s. 1d.

In 1314 John Ashwell, by royal licence, aliened to the abbot of Creak three roods of land in Hapton, to enlarge the scite of the rectory-house there.

In

* It is to be observed, that the advowson did not attend the manor, but belonged to the Bigots manor of Forncet, and was by them infeoffed in the Creaks, from which family it went to the Narfords.

In 1426 the abbot sold to John Fleet, and his heirs, a messuage, called Dalyot's, in Hapton, and four acres of land, paying 2s. and an hen yearly to that house.

In 1461 John Shelton, esq. lessee to John abbot of Creak, leased to John Wood, then parish chaplain of Hapton, all the lands, houses, and great and small tithes, for ten years.

About 1506 this monastery was looked upon as dissolved, because the abbot died without a convent to elect another, whereupon all the lands and revenues, by the procurement of lady Margaret, countess of Richmond, mother to Henry VII. were settled on her college in Cambridge, called Christ's College; and ever since the impropriation hath remained in the master and fellows there, who nominate a perpetual curate to serve the parish, and pay him out of the profits, it having been esteemed a donative in their gift ever since the foundation, and as such it now remains.

In 1603 the perpetual curate returned answer, that there were forty-three communicants, that the whole parish paid 50s. to each tenth, and that Christ's College had twenty-three acres of glebe. The prior of Thetford was taxed at 22d. ob. for temporals here; the prior of Walsingham 6d. the abbot of Sibton 10s. and the prior of Buckenham 2s. 9d. ob.

The church, which stands on an eminence, hath no steeple, the nave is leaded, and the chancel thatched. In the east window are the arms of Thorpe, Clifton, Cailly, &c. but there are no other memorials. There is a bell hanging in a wooden frame in the church-yard.

There was an ancient family surnamed from the town. Stephen de Habeton was an owner here. In 1348 William de Habetun; and in 1412 John Hapton, of Wymondham.

The manor was joined to that of Fundenhall at the conquest, by Walter de Dol; the church had then fifteen acres of glebe. The town was a mile long, and a mile and a quarter broad, and paid 6d. 3q. to the gelt. It was always held of the Norfolk family, as of Forncet manor, at one quarter of a fee, and always attended the manor of Ashwelthorpe. The manor-house is called Hapton-hall, and was always the jointure house of the Knyvet family. The title of the manors now run, "Ashwelthorpe with Wrenningham, and Fundenhall with Hapton."

The manor of Forncet extended into this town, and hath done so ever since the conquest; for then there was another part in this village of about ninety acres, and some small rents, held by knight's service, of William de Vallibus, or Vaus; and in 1426 they were held as parcel of Wormegay honor.

The late Rev. Thomas Thurlow, father of Edward lord Thurlow, and lord high chancellor of Great Britain; 2. Thomas bishop of Lincoln; 3. John Thurlow, esq. alderman of Norwich, mayor in 1779, and candidate to represent that city, Sept. 11, 1780, was curate here, and was succeeded by the Rev. Richard Perkinson.

HARDWICK, or **HERDEWIC**, signifies the place at the wic, or winding of the river, where the herd was usually fed; it was in many parts at the conquest, the whole being two miles long, and one broad, and paid 9d. to the gelt. The honor of Eye extended

extended hither, and there was one part which belonged to the abbey of Ely, as to the manor of Pulham; and another to Bainard-castle, as belonging to the manor of Hempnall, which was held of that honor.

The CAPITAL MANOR, called afterwards BARRET'S, belonged to Roger Bigot at the conquest, and was always held of the Norfolk family at one fee, as of their manor of Forncet. This manor in the time of Henry III. belonged to the Barrets, and was sold by Ivo Barret to Robert Bacon. In 1308 Bartholomew de Evereux had it. William le Waleys, of Shelton, was lord and patron here; and in 1308 Margaret, relict of Walter le Waleys; it then passed along with the advowson in the Barrets, and their feoffees, till Catherine, daughter and heiress of Simon Barret, carried it to William Shelton,* of Shelton, esq. her husband, in the time of Henry IV. and it continued in the Sheltons till sold to Thomas, father of Peter Gleane, of Norwich, who was knighted by James I. and served as member of parliament for that city in the 1st of Charles I. 1627. He married Maud, daughter of Robert Suckling, of Norwich, esq. and was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas Gleane, of Hardwick-hall, esq. who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Brewse, esq. (descended from sir Richard Brewse, of Topcroft, knt.) for whom is an inscription on a tomb against the north chancel wall: he died January 27, 1660, aged 74; she died July 22, 1630, aged 45.—Gleane impales Suckling, Ditto impaling Brewse, and Brewse impaling Brewster.

Peter Gleane, their eldest son, succeeded, who was created a baronet in the 17th of Charles II. he served member for Norfolk in the parliament called the 3rd of Charles II. at Westminster, 1678, and was
rechosen.

rechosen to serve in the succeeding parliament, 1681; he married Penelope, daughter and coheirefs of fir Edward Rodney, of Rodney-Stoke, in Somersetshire, knt. Sir Peter died about 1694, and his lady February 17, 1689, and are buried within the altar-rails of the chancel, under an altar-tomb, by which hang two atchivements; the first hath Gleane quartering Brewse, with the Ulster arms, or Baronet's badge, in the fefs point, and this motto:—*Jay servey mon roy*—and the arms, crest, and motto of Rodney. —*Sir Peter Gleane, bart. served Charles I. in all the civil wars; raised and armed two companies of foot at his own charge; he served the crown faithfully above forty years in military offices, from a lieutenant to a colonel of foot, and in this county of Norfolk, lieutenant-colonel of the militia, and was deputy lieutenant, and likewise colonel and deputy lieutenant for the city of Norwich. In his civil station, he bore the character of justice of the peace within this county above twenty years, and had the honor twice to be chosen one of the representatives for the same, to serve in parliament; in which severat services for his king and country he spent his strength and fortunes, and the wounds with that received, were not healed in this year, 1683.*

This fir Peter was lord also of BOUTON'S, or BOLTON'S MANOR here, which was held by Wistret, a free-man of the Conqueror, at the survey, and it seems to have been in the crown some time afterwards. In 1315 fir John Sturmy, knt. had it, and in 1332 Roger de Hardwick, when it was held of Forncet, as of the manor of Hempnall, at one fee; it afterwards came to the Bois's; Catherine, daughter and heirefs of Roger Bois, carried it to her husband, Jenney, and so it passed along with Intwood, till it was sold to the Gleans's, by William Gresham, of London,

London, esq. and ever since these two manors and advowson have continued together, the stile of the court being, "The manor Boughton's, and Barret's, in Hardwick."

The Atlas, p. 334, says, that Henry Bouchier, earl of Effex, had Bolton's manor here, which was bestowed upon his father, William, by Edward IV. because he married Ann, one of the daughters of Richard Woodvile, earl of Rivers, sister to his queen.

The lord hath waif and stray only upon his own demesnes; the eldest son is heir, and the fines are at the lord's will.

Hardwick was sold by sir Peter Gleane to sir John Holland, of Quiddenham, and given by him to his second son, Brian, for life; and in 1713 we find Waller Bacon, esq. of Earlham, lord and patron, whose relict, Mrs. Frances Bacon, enjoyed it. Edward Bacon, esq. of Earlham, now member in parliament for the city of Norwich, being their eldest son and heir, is now lord and patron.

Shelton manor always did, and now doth, extend into this town, and therefore that manor is stiled Shelton *cum* Hardwick, and the churches annexed.

The church hath a steeple round at bottom, and octangular at top, with one bell in it; the nave is leaded, the south porch tiled, the chancel part leaded, and part tiled, in the windows of which are the arms of Shelton sngle, and again impaling Morley, and Fitz-Walter's arms sngle; and on a flat stone the arms of Bacon, of Baconsthorpe.

In

In a north window, Shelton impales arg. a fess sab. between three mullets gul.—*Thomas Crabbe, hujus ecclesiæ rector, ob. Feb. 3, A. D. 1680.*

Rand impaling Brock,—*The Rev. Samuel Rand, A. M. 33 years rector, who died June 7, 1714, aged 65; Maria, his wife, died August 5, 1724, aged 63.*

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret. William le Waleys was patron when Norwich Doom-day-book was wrote; the rector had a house and three acres of glebe, though the terriers have since fix; it was valued at eight marks and an half, and paid 11. 8s. clear to each tenth.

The monks of Thetford had temporals here valued at 10s. and in the register of the sacrist of Bury abbey it is said, that Robert le Gros released his right in the advowson to the abbot of Bury, but we do not find the abbot ever presented, or had any thing to do here. It stands discharged of first-fruits and tenths in the king's books, and is capable of augmentation.—51. Hardwick rectory; 40l. clear yearly value.

In 1344 Roger de Herdegray, citizen of Norwich, was patron; and in 1412 sir Ralph Shelton, knt. in right of his manor, called Barret's; in which family the advowson remained till 1620, when Thomas Cronshay had it of William Boswell for his turn; he was turned out April 28, 1644, by the earl of Manchester, for observing the orders of the church, dissuading his parishioners from assisting the rebellion, and saying, "The parliament are lay-men, and have no power to order religion, or church government." He had at that time a wife and ten children, the youngest of which was not above three years old; he

was

was also very poor, and by consequence, when sequestered, was, with his numerous family, turned a begging. Walker, part II. fol. 223. After this the Gleanes and Bacons were patrons.

In 1718 the Rev. Samuel Shuckforth had the church united to Shelton. He was also minister of Seething, and the two Mundhams, all which he resigned in 1746, being then D. D. and prebend of Canterbury. He published, "The sacred and prophane History of the World, connected from the creation of the world, to the dissolution of the Assyrian empire, at the death of Sardanapalus, and to the declension of the kingdom of Judah and Israel, under the reigns of Abaz and Pekah." The first volume, octavo, was published at London, in 1728.

June 15, 1445, the rectory of Hardwick was consolidated with the two medieties of Shelton; and in 1748 the Rev. John Kinderly was presented by Mrs. Frances Bacon, widow, *p. j.* Since which the Rev. John Salmon, then curate, has been presented.

HEMPNALL, or HEMENHALE. The rectory here was given by Walter Fitz-Robert, patron of Dunmow priory, in Essex, to that house, to which it was impropriated, and a vicarage endowed, which was presented to by the priors there till the dissolution, and then Henry VIII. granted the impropriation, and advowson of the vicarage, to Robert earl of Suffex, and his heirs, to be held of him in *capite*, by knights service, and ever since they have attended the manor here, with which they now remain.

Before the appropriation the rectory had a house and twenty acres of glebe; it was taxed at twenty-six marks, and consequently the prior paid 34s. 8d. to each

each tenth. The vicarage was taxed at ten marks, or 6l. 13s. 4d. as it now stands in the king's books, and being not discharged, it pays 13s. 4d. yearly tenths, and is not capable of augmentation.

In 1605 the rector returned answer, that he had 400 communicants in the parish.

William Barwick, A. M. rector here, was sequestered April 28, 1644, by the earl of Manchester, for observing the orders of the church, declaring against the parliament and rebellion, opposing the lectures of godly ministers in the town, and swearing by his faith and troth. And from this time several of the intruders kept possession till 1649, and then John Potter had it, who was buried here, August 4, 1692, when sir Capel Luckyn was patron; and in 1723 lady Mary Luckyn, widow, was patroness.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, and is twenty yards long, the breadth of the nave and two aisles is twelve yards, being all covered with lead; it hath a square tower about sixteen yards high, and only one bell and a clock; part of the chancel is ruined, and the remaining part is tiled.

We find no inscription, save one, on a stone in the north aisle, which lies over—*Robert French, gent. Aug. 31, 1711, ætat. 57.*

The town lands were given by Mr. Sewell, and are now lett at 22l. 10s. a year. This town paid 6l. 10s. clear to every tenth.

In 1615, October 13, Elizabeth Gray, aged above 100 years, was buried here; she was a descendent from John Gray, esq. lord of the manor of Littlehall,

hall, in Topcroft, in 1408, which manor extended into Hempnall, Woodton, and Bedingham.

The priory of Dunmow had anciently divers lands here; but in 1234 the prior sold four acres to Roger, son of William de Hemenhale; and in 1204 the prior had sold others, so that the prior was taxed 6d. only for his temporals, and the prioress of Bungay at 12d. for hers. The abbot of Bury had a water-mill, and divers suits and rents belonging to it here, for which he was taxed at 34s. 4d. it was named Twa-grind, and was confirmed to that monastery by Walter Fitz-Robert, being situate on Long-bridge, and anciently was called "Piper-mill on Rucham-river, in Hemenhale," and was given by Roger de Buckenham, and William de Rucham confirmed it.

The manor of HEMPNALL, or HEMENHALE, belonged to Torn, a Dane, at the Confessor's survey; had then three free-men, 41 borderers, (or copy-holders) and 54 villains; it had one priest, (or rector) and two churches, endowed with a carucate of land, and four villains and four borderers that held two carucates more of them, valued at 15s. there was a wood, called Schieteshaugh, which maintained 200 swine, and the abbot of St. Bennet at Holme claimed part of it; the manor was then worth 15l.

At the Conqueror's survey it belonged wholly with its soc, sac, and jurisdiction, to Ralph Bainard, when it had lands, &c. worth 24l. 5s. a year, &c. it was four miles long, and three broad, and paid 18d. to the gelt, or tax. It had ten acres held by a freeman, which lay in Fritton and Hardwick, and Forncet manor extended hither. A free-man of Alwius, or Alwine, of Thetford, had thirty acres, &c. worth

10s. at the first survey, all which was held by Turolde at the last.

This Ralph lord Bainard was a powerful baron, one of those that came in with the Conqueror, lord of Castle-Bainard, in London, and of the barony of that castle; all which William Bainard, his descendant, forfeited by his rebellion to Henry I. and he gave the whole to Robert Fitz-Richard Fitz-Gilbert, the first earl of Clare, and his heirs; he gave it to Robert de Tonebridge, his fifth son, and he to sir Walter Fitz-Robert, his son, who was to hold it of the barony of Bainard's-castle: this Robert was lord of the manor of Dis, with which this passed to the Fitz-Walters, and Ratcliffs, earls of Suffex, being always held of the Fitz-Walters barony.

In 1545 Henry earl of Suffex, on his son's match with Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Wriothesley, settled it on them and their heirs, and it remained in the family till Robert Ratcliff sold it to sir William Luckyn, *alias* Capel; he was the first baronet of the family, so created in the 13th of Charles I. and married Mildred, third daughter of sir Gamaliel Capel, of Rookwood-hall, in Essex, knt. by whom he had sir Capel Luckyn, bart. who married Mary, eldest daughter of sir Harbottle Grimston, of Bradfield, in Essex, bart. master of the rolls; she died in March, 1718, aged 86.

Sir William Luckyn, of Messinghall, *alias* Bainard's-castle, in Essex, bart. second, but eldest surviving son, succeeded; and lady Mary Luckyn, his widow, daughter of William Sherrington, alderman of London, was lady and patroness, and presented in 1724, this manor having been usually the jointure of the ladies of all its owners.

Sir

Sir Harbottle Luckyn, the eldest son, is dead, and the title absorbed in William Luckyn, the second son, who being adopted heir to sir Samuel Grimston, bart. changed his name to Grimston, and was created viscount Grimston, of the kingdom of Ireland, May 4, 1719; and sir James Bucknall Grimston, bart. lord viscount Grimston, is now lord and patron.

This manor had liberty of free-warren, view of leet and frank-pledge, in the presence of the bailiff of the king's hundred of Depwade; a weekly market on Monday, granted by Henry III. in 1225, and a fair granted by Edward I. a pillory, ducking-stool, gallows, and assize of bread and ale, allowed in 1286.

In 1327 the manor-house had a park of 260 acres, and 579 acres in demesne, 96 acres of under-wood, and 10l. 2s. 3d. q. rents of assize, here and in Pulham, Hardwick, and Shelton; and there was 6l. 19s. paid yearly to the manor for castle-ward from Whet-acre, Chadgrave, Langley, Hales, Kirkby, Broome, Boketon, or Bowton, Barton. Stradset, Tivetshall, Haleholme, and Wicklewood, viz. for every fee, every twenty-four weeks, 3s. 4d. the whole value of the manor being estimated at 48l. per ann.

In 1315 lord Fitz-Walter was returned entire lord of the town.

In 1379 John Fitz-Walter procured a charter of Richard III. to hold their market every Friday, and so the Monday market was laid aside; the Friday market is now disused; and to hold another fair on St. Andrew's-day, which is still annually kept on that day; and the ancient chapel of St. Andrew, which at the conquest was parochial, though depend-

H ent

ent on the mother-church, is now used (as we are informed) for a repository for the stalls.

Sir RALPH'S, or CURPLE'S MANOR, in Hempnall, took its name from Roger Curpeil, who had one fee in Hempnall of the gift of Walter Fitz-Robert, and it was always held of the Fitz-Walter's barony of Bainard's-castle, as of their manor of Hempnall; this Roger Curpeil, or Capell, (as he is also called) divided the fee into four parts. one of which he gave to Walter de Valoines, and his heirs.

The part in the Valoines family came to the family surnamed de Hemenhale, or Hempnall; and sir Ralph de Hemenhale, who was knighted by Edward I. was the first lord of that family, from whom it was stiled sir Ralph's manor; he was succeeded by Ralph, his son, who was lord of this part in 1227, and added to it by purchasing many lands. Sir Ralph de Hemenhale had now, 1307, the whole, except one fourth part*, all which remained in this family.

In 1389 sir Robert Hemenhale, knt. of Hempnall, (where this family resided) released to sir Geo. Felbrigg, knt. and oth. trustees, his manors in Norfolk, and Suffolk, and all the possessions of his father, sir Ralph; he was first husband to Joan, daughter and heiress of sir John De-la-Pole, knt. by whom he had only one son, William. It appears that sir Robert died before 1306; for in that year William being a natural, this manor and 40s. rents in Fritton, Mourningthorpe, and Long Stratton, were committed to the custody of John Beaver; but this William was dead some time before 1419; for in that year his father's
arms

* Thomas de Hemenhale, of this family, was elected bishop of Norwich, and consecrated bishop of Worcester.

arms were fixed up in the window of the Austinfriars church at Norwich, among the rest of the knights that had no surviving issue; and John, son of Robert de Hemenhale, his uncle, inherited, and died without issue.

In 1407 David Hemenhale, esq. lived here; he was a witness in the cause between sir Reginald Grey, and sir Edward Hastings, of Elsing, for their arms, in which he deposed, that Walter Ubbeston, of Ubbeston, in Suffolk, was his father-in-law, and tutor to the earl Marshal, who died at Venice; it seems he had no issue, for the manor went to sir Thomas Brooke, of Somersetshire, in right of Joan his wife, daughter and heiress of John De-la-Pole, by Reginald Braybrook, son of sir Gerard, her second husband, according to a settlement made on her and her heirs, by sir Robert de Hemenhale, her first husband, in case of failure of the issue of his own family; and in 1468 sir Edward Brooke, of Cobham, son of sir Thomas, died seised.

In 1490 Richard Bromvyle, or Blundevyle, esq. had this manor, and Heveringland, and died seised of them in 1503; it continued in that family till after 1580, and then it was sold by Thomas Blundevyle, esq. In 1612 sir William Bowyer, knt. and Thomas Awdeley, esq. conveyed it to Thomas Richardson, and George Allington, esqrs. and their heirs; and since it is manumised and divided, so that we do not find it subsisting as a manor at present.

In 1774 the Rev. Coste Leicester was presented to the vicarage of Hempnall by the right honorable lord viscount Grimston, *p. j.*

MOULTON St. MICHAEL, GREAT MOULTON, or MOULTON *Magna** manor, was held of Roger Bigot, as of his manor of Forncet, by Algar, at the time of the conquest; and another part of it belonged to Alan earl of Richmond, and was valued with his manor of Costeffey. Little Moulton belonged also to the said Roger, and Algar held that also of him; it had then a church and fifteen acres of glebe, and the king had two free-men here, who had an inheritance, held of the abbey of Holme, to which the advowson belonged. Both the parishes were three miles long, and a mile broad, and paid 13d. ob. gelt.

In the time of William Rufus the earl of Norfolk enfeoffed William de Verdon in it, along with Brifingham, and it attended that manor for many ages, being held of the Verdon, one half fee of it of the Norfolk family, and one fifth part of a fee of the honor of Bainard's-castle, which was purchased of Ralph de Camois, and added to the manor. It afterwards went with Brifingham, till Isabel, daughter and heiress of sir John Verdon, married sir Imbert Noon, of Shelfhanger, and carried it into that family; it passed with it till 1512, and then Henry Noon, of Shelfhanger, esq. sold it to Thomas Spring, of Lanhams, cloth-man, and Thomas Jermyn, his feeoffee, together with the advowson, at which time it extended into Wacton and Forncet; by him it was soon after conveyed to Leonard Spencer, of Blofield. It afterwards belonged to sir Thomas Jermyn, knt. then to sir William Drury, knt. afterwards to Robert Wetherber; and in 1562 to Andrew, John, and Anthony Rivet; in 1570 to John Rivet, of Brandeston, esq.

* Muleton, or Moleton, seems to signify the town at the molendinum, or mill, and the suit to this mill seems remarkable, fourteen free-men being forced to grind there.

esq. in which year it was found that the superior lordship over the commons, &c. belonged to the manor of Forncet. It continued in this family till after 1689; and in 1717 Elizabeth, widow of Thomas Chute, esq. had it: it now belongs to Mrs. Ann Elwin, of Norwich, widow, and Thomas Lobb Chute, esq. of Pickenham, in joint tenancy, and a third turn of the sinecure rectory of Wacton *Parva* is appendant to it, as also this patronage.

The Rev. Richard Drake, L. L. B. rector here, was buried by the church-yard gate, by his house, and gave all he had to be divided among his poor parishioners of Moulton, and Griston. Moulton hath now town lands of his gift, in 1526.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, was first valued at ten, and afterwards at twelve marks. The rector had a house and twenty acres of glebe. The portion of the monks at Thetford was valued at 6s. 8d. and in 1612 was paid to Aflacton manor, in right of Thetford priory.

There was a chapel of our Lady in this church, and an altar dedicated to her also in it, by which stood her image, with a light burning before it. In 1504 Walter Taylor gave a legacy for a new bell; and in 1674 a licence passed to lessen the great bell. It stands in the king's books at 6l. 13s. 4d. and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 30l. it is discharged of first-fruits and tenths, and is capable of augmentation; and the whole parish paid 5l. clear to every tenth.

In 1329 lands here and in Hardwick were settled on the prior of the Holy Trinity at Ipswich, by

Richard Mundham, William Weybred, Walter de Thorpe, and R. Fugar, and their wives.

The prior of the monks at Thetford was taxed for divers temporal rents here, belonging to their estate in Aflacton, at 13s. 5d.

The steeple is round at bottom, and octangular at top, and hath five bells; the south porch, south and north ailes, and nave, are leaded, and the chancel is tiled. The arms of Verdon, Vice de Lou, and Noon, were very often in the windows.

In the nave,—*Hic jacet corpus Johannis Roope, gent. qui obiit 30 die Julij, 1667.*

In the south aile,—*Hic jacet corpus Roberti Roope, gent. qui obiit 27 die Julij, 1666.—Dorothy Roope, 23 Oct. 1673.*

In the chancel,—*Richard Wilson, rector 27 years, 28 Nov. 1716, ætat. 60.—William Needham, rector, is buried north and south under the altar.*

On a brass,—*Hic jacet Willelmus Machett, quondam rector istius ecclesie, qui obiit xi die Sept. A. D. 1620.*

On an altar-tomb by the south chancel door are the arms of Wickham*,—*Thomas, son of Thomas Wickham, gent. Apr. 5, 1661. Thomas Wickham, gent. the elder, Dec. 16, 1688, aged 66. Mary, wife of Thomas Wickham, 23 May, 1706, aged 80. William, their son, Aug. 5, 1706, aged 45.*

At

* This family descended from William of Wickham, founder of New College, in Oxford, as the arms plainly shew, and as such, their descendents are the founder's kinsmen.

At the south-west corner of the church-yard is a very antique altar-tomb, but no arms or inscription.

John Moulton, born here, a white friar, or carmelite, in Norwich monastery, flourished about the year 1400; Pitts, page 568, tells us, that he was a pious, learned, and eloquent man, and an excellent preacher; he published a book of ninety sermons.

MOULTON ALL SAINTS, LITTLE MOULTON, or MOULTON *Parva*, at the survey was in two parts; that held of Forncet, by Algar, belonged first to Ralph, and then to Robert de Agnellis, and the whole was held of Forncet at a fee, but part of it the lord of Forncet held of the honor of Gloucester; and in 1212 Lambert Teutonicus, called also le Almain, who afterwards took the surname of Moulton, agreed with Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, the capital lord of the town, and purchased divers rents and lands from the manor of Great Moulton, of Bertram de Verdon, of whom it was settled this manor should henceforward be held; so that by this purchase the quit-rents of this manor became 5*l.* per annum.

In 1235 Richard de Brewse, and Oliver de Reedham, were concerned in it; and in 1246 the said Richard, jointly with Eleanor, his wife, held a court baron. In 1306 Reginald le Gros settled it on Oliver de Reedham, and Joan, his wife. In 1309 William de Walscote settled it on Thomas de Moulton, who held it in 1315 of Richard de Brewse; and in 1345 it was purchased by William De-la-Park, and joined to his manor, called Park's, in Wacton, and from that time there hath been no court kept in this parish.

The advowson from the Conqueror's time belonged to the abbot of St. Bennet at the Holme, who was taxed at 28s. 6d. for temporals here, but had no manor, only free-rents, or pensions, paid out of such lands as belonged to him, which were granted to be held free.

The rectors were presented by the abbots of Holme till 1535, when sir Robert Matthew, chaplain, was the last presented by the convent; after which the rectors were presented by the bishops of Norwich, as abbots of Holme.

In 1664 the rector was presented to it as a *sinecure*, and lett the whole profits, both of tithes and glebes, at 10l. per ann. though in the time of Henry VIII. it was returned to be then worth 20l. per ann. and now stands at 30l. clear yearly value in the king's books; but in 1670 he lett it at 8l. per annum only. It was held by so many, with Great Moulton, that the lands titheable to this rectory are scarce known, though they were about one third of the parish's.

The church was dedicated to All Saints, and when Norwich Doomsday-book was wrote, the rector had no house, but thirteen acres of glebe; it was valued at three, and afterwards at four marks; the abbot of Holme's portion was 4s. The church was in use till 1570. and then was totally demolished; the scite of it is still called All Saints church-yard: it is capable of augmentation, being returned of 30l. value, it is discharged of first-fruits and tenths. and now stands thus in the king's books:—4l. 3s. 1d. ob. Moulton *Omnium Sanctorum*, alias *Parva* rectory, 30l. clear yearly value.

In

In 1762 the Rev. John Malyn was presented to this rectory by the bishop of Norwich.

MOURNINGTHORPE, or **MORINGTHORP**, was known by the name of Thorpe only in the Confessor's time; and to distinguish it from the many villages of that name, it began to be called Moringthorpe about the time of the Conqueror, from the mere, mare, or more. it was situated by. It was given before the Confessor's survey to the abbey of St. Edmund at Bury, in Suffolk, by Turketel, a Danish thane, or nobleman, along with the town of Castor by Norwich, and the abbot held it as a manor, having one carucate in demesne, of 20s. a year value, to which belonged a church and twenty acres of glebe; but before the Conqueror's survey the whole (except the advowson, leet, and some small parcels which always attended the abbey to its dissolution) was infeoffed by the abbot in Robert de Vals, or Vaux, who held it of the abbey by knights service; it was then risen to 30s. value, and the town was a mile long, and three furlongs broad, and paid 1d. ob. q. to the gelt, or tax.

The rectors of Mourningthorpe were presented by the abbots of Bury till the dissolution, when the advowson vested in the crown, and still remains there.

In 1603 the rector returned fifty-eight communicants in this parish.

In 1722 the Rev. William Smith, rector here, published a translation from the French of the dialogues concerning eloquence, by the late archbishop of Cambray.

In

In 1756 the Rev. Thomas Howse, jun. the present rector, had it of the gift of the crown.

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, who had a guild kept in it to his honor. The rector had a house and nine acres of glebe when Norwich Doomſday-book was made; it was valued at eleven marks, and the prior of the Holy Trinity at Ipswich had a portion of tithes valued at 32s. per annum; the village paid clear to every tenth 1l. 13s. it now stands in the king's books by the name of Morningthorpe rectory, valued at 7l. but being sworn of the clear yearly value of 45l. it is discharged of first-fruits and tenths, and is capable of augmentation.

The temporals belonging to Bury abbey here were assigned to the use of the sacrist of that monastery, and were taxed at 4s. 6d. The prior of Dunmow, in Essex, had a mill, lands, and rents, of 35s. 2d. per annum. The temporals of the prior of Norwich were taxed at 5s. 11d. and those of the prior of Wymondham abbey at 7d.

There is a pension of 18s. a year paid by the rector to the rector of Stratton St. Michael; and in 1612 we find another pension of 6s. 8d. per annum was paid out of this rectory to the rectory of Stratton St. Michael. The steeple is round, the church is leaded, and the chancel tiled.

There is an altar-monument in the south part of the chancel,—*For John Roope, gent. of this parish, who died February 11, 1686, aged 77;—with his arms.*

In the church is a memorial,—*For Francis Hammond, gent. December 7, 1687.*

A black

A black marble in the chancel,—*In memory of John Roope, jun. gent. June 30, 1685. Elizabeth Roope, wife of John Roope, gent. died Nov. 15, 1680.*

A black marble hath an inscription, and two shields: 1. Garnish impaling Rudge, or Ruge. 2. Ditto impaling Soame;—*John Garneys, of Boyland-hall, esq. who died December 15, 1661; as also Charles Garneys, of Boyland-hall, esq. (father of the said John Garneys,) and some time high sheriff of this county, who died Jan 30, 1657, in the 89th year of his age.*—Many others of this family are interred here.

Against the north chancel wall is a mural monument, with this:—*John Howe, esq. died in 1737. He was a pious man, and the world the better for him.*—Howse impaling Keddington.

The late John Howse, esq. resided at his seat in this town; he married Barbara Sidnor, daughter of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Sidnor, rector of Hempstead, and vicar of Honingham, who was descended from a brother of Richard Sedenore's, *alias* Sydnore, arch-deacon of Totnes, in Devonshire. The Rev. Thomas Howes now resides here.

In 1429 John Howes, esq. did homage to Bury abbey for his estates in Ashfield; in Suffolk.

There is a mural monument against the south chancel wall,—*For John Wormall, gent. of this parish, Jan. 4, 1729, aged 55,*—and others of his family.

Nine coats quartered: 1. Garnish; 2. Ramsey; 3. Wellytham; 4. Kenton; 5. Fraunce; 6. Denston; 7. Waunston; 8. Toppesfield; 9. Church.—Garnish

nish with a crescent impales Berney. Ditto impaling Tirrel. Ditto impaling on a chev. 5 martlets.

On a white mural marble monument, with the arms of Gostlin and Garnish, on a coat of pretence,—*To the memory of Dame Mary Gostlin, daughter of John Garnish, of Boyland-Hall, in the county of Norfolk, esq. sister and coheirefs of Wentworth Garneys, esq. who died January '23, 1723, in the 69th year of her age; she left issue one son, Charles, and one daughter, who married sir John Bendish, of Steeple-Bumpsteade, in the county of Essex. Also near this place lieth the body of her husband, sir William Gostlin, knt. who was alderman and sheriff of the city of London.*

There is a town-house, and twenty yards of land in length, and fourteen yards in breadth, held of Mourningthorpe, or Thorpe-hall manor; and a messuage and thirteen acres and an half of land, of which three acres and an half lie in Shelton-field, and the rest in this parish, the clear yearly profits of which is to be laid out about the repairs and ornaments of Mourningthorpe church.

The honor of Richmond extends hither, and did so at the conquest; for Alan earl of Richmond had a freeman, and other services here, valued at 4s. per annum.

· MOURNINGTHORPE, OR THORPE-HALL MANOR, passed in the Vaux's, who held it of the abbot of Bury at one fee; the abbot always being superior lord held a leet, which at the dissolution vested in the crown, and was granted to the Sheltons, and added to the manor, which was settled by fine, levied in 1186 on Henry, son of Joceline, who had it of the Vaux's by the abbot's consent; and in 1198
Henry

Henry settled it on the de Shimplings, in which family it continued long, all of them releasing to the abbots all right in the advowson. In 1202 some of this family had assumed the surname of Thorpe*, from this his manor. In 1274 the heir of Roger de Shimpling had assize of bread and ale, and free-warren allowed to the manor; and in 1286 had view of frank-pledge of all his tenants in Mourningthorpe, to be held in the presence of the bailiff of the hundred, paying the king by him 12d. a year, and also assize of bread and ale, and waif; and in 1287 held it at one fee of John de Vallibus, or Vaux, of Tharfton. In 1363 Isabel Shimpling held the third part in dower, and conveyed it to John de Easthall, on condition to marry her; but he not performing his promise, she was forced to sue for her lands again; and in an action brought in 1401, it appeared, that Roger Shimpling died seised of this, and Shimpling, and left three daughters and heiresses; Isabel, married to John Kirtling; Katherine, to William Ellingham; and Joan; to whom this manor was allotted in 1412. It was soon afterwards, in 1412, purchased by the Sheltons, and continued in that family till sir Ralph Shelton, knt. sold it to the Garneys, of Boyland-hall, in this parish, and ever since it hath been united to Boyland-hall, in Mourningthorpe; for at the Conqueror's survey Boiel and † was a separate villa, and afterwards was united, part of it to Fritton ‡, and the greater part to this town. Torn, the Dane, owned it

* This family, though the manor went to the Shimplings, continued here, and had a good estate. In 1274 Walter de Meringthorpe, and his father, had free-warren to their estate here.

† Boieland, Boisland, or the woody land.

‡ The stile of Fritton court runs, Fritton and Boyland *cum* Fritton; and Boyland, in Mourningthorpe, extended into Fritton.

it in the time of Edward the Confessor, when the demefnes and manor were worth 20s. and Ralph Bainard had it at the Conqueror's survey, when it was worth 40s. a year, and had the soc and sac belonging to it, with leet, and all other jurisdictions; and it passed in this family till they sold it, about 1190, to Ralph, who settled here, and took the name of Boyland from this place. Sir Richard de Boyland built Boyland-hall, in Briffingham, and settled there, and from his time it passed in that family, and continued with Boyland-hall, in Briffingham, till about 1534, and then it was purchased by John Garney, late of Mendlesham, in Suffolk, and joined to Mourningthorpe manor, which he purchased as before.

The family of the Garneys, or Garnishes, is, and hath been many ages, esteemed one of the principal families of the county.

In 1384 Robert Garneys was one of the lords of Soham-hall manor, in Barford.

William Garneys, esq. of Geldeston, married Elizabeth, daughter of sir Ralph Bigot, of Stockton, knt. and died seised in fee of the manors of Geldeston, Kirby-Cane, and Stockton, in Norfolk, held of the abbot of St. Edmund's Bury, in 1428.

Thomas Garneys, of Kenton-hall, in Suffolk, eldest son of sir Peter Garneys, knt. married Margaret, daughter and coheiress of Hugh Fraunce, of Giffard's-hall, in Suffolk, who out-lived him, and remarried Thomas Peyton, of Iselham, esq. and of Peyton-hall, in Boxford, in Suffolk: they had two sons; Richard, his second son, settled at Mendlesham, and married Elizabeth, daughter of William
Toppesfield,

Toppesfield, by whom he had John Garneys, esq. who having purchased the manors of Mourningthorpe, and Boyland-hall, as before, removed from Mendlesham, and settled here; and by Ursula, his wife, daughter of Thomas Berney, esq. of Reedham, had four sons†, of which the eldest was Richard Garneys, esq. of Boyland and Mendlesham, who built the present fabric, called Boyland-hall*, which he finished in 1571, as the date on the portal shews, on which is the full coat of Garnish, supported by two mermaids, and in the windows is his motto, in which every word begins with a G. the initial letter of his name, viz.—*Goddeſs Grace Governe Garneys.*

In the hall windows are the arms of Garney quartering the different families connected with them, besides others that are now defaced and lost.

Richard

† The second son was sir Francis Garneys, knight of the Rhodes.

* In 1352 there was a chapel belonging to Boyland-hall, called Mourningthorpe chapel. The present building is moated in, and hath been a grand house. We are shewn a painting here of Henry VIII. with Edward VI. at his right hand, and queen Mary at his left, with these verses on it:

Venite Benediſti Patris mei, poſſidete regnum.

1. The kyngdom of Heven be Christ, 'teys resembled to this noble kyng
With riches inroded mercy for to lern, and to have compassion.
One of another, after goddes Faſſyon.
2. The kyng here hys ſervantes before hym dothe call,
Accountes for to make, of hys goodes grete and ſmalle;
Among them ys one, that ten thowſand talants owght,
But wherewyth for to pay, the man had right nowght
3. Wherfor the kyng commaunded that he ſhuld be ſolde,
His wyfee, children, and goodes, payment to be tolde,
On knees he aſked reſpight, and payment promyſythe.
The Lorde do releaſſe hym, and all his dett fyrgyvythe.

Richard Garneys, esq. married Margery, daughter of James Tirrell, esq. of Columbine-hall, in Suffolk; but dying without issue, all his inheritable lands went to Nicholas Garneys, esq. of Kenton, descended from another branch of this family.

Nicholas Garneys, of Kenton, esq. sole heir of the family, was high sheriff for Suffolk in 1592, and his estate in Kenton, Mourningthorpe, Ringsfield, Redisham, &c. was above 1200l. per ann. he married Ann, daughter of Charles Clere, esq. of Stokesby, in the hundred of West Flegg, and dying about 1599, left six sons* and five daughters: 1. Charles Garneys, of Kenton, esq. the eldest; removed to Boyland-hall, and settled there; he was high sheriff of Norfolk in 1652, and married Elizabeth, daughter of John Wentworth, esq. sister of sir John Wentworth, of Somerly-Town, in Suffolk, knt. the great lawyer, who bought it of Jernegan; and on her brother's death, without issue, the said Charles had it in her right, as one of the coheiresses to sir John; he was buried at Mourningthorpe in 1657.

John Garneys, of Boyland-hall, and Somerleytown, only son of Charles Garneys, and Elizabeth Wentworth, had two wives; first, Ann, daughter of William Rugge, of Felmingham, gent. by whom he had Ann, who died unmarried, and was buried here in 1688, and Thomas Garneys, esq. of Redisham, who died without issue. His second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Stephen Soame, alderman of London, by whom he had three sons and five daughters; he died

* From Clere Garneys, esq. 6th son of Nicholas Garneys, esq. of Kenton and Boyland-hall, is descended the present Charles Garneys, esq. of Hedenham, who was high sheriff of Norfolk in 1777.

died in 1661, aged 54, and was buried here; and Wentworth Garneys, esq. his eldest son, succeeded him, and married for his first wife, Ann, daughter of Mr Charles Gaudy, of Crowshall, in Debenham, knt. who died in 1681, and is buried here, but left no child; and for his second wife, Mary, daughter of sir Thomas Abdy, of Felix-hall, in Kelveden, in Essex, but had no issue; he died in 1685, and is buried here, leaving Boyland-hall, and this estate, to his sisters, and it is now in the heiress of his fourth sister, Martha, then married to Robert Raworth, of London, merchant; she died in 1694, and is buried here, leaving one daughter, Elizabeth, and three sons, Henry, Robert, and John, and it is now, says Mr. Blomefield, in William Drake, esq. L. L. D. of Shardelowes, in Bucks, member in parliament for Agmondesham, in that county, who in 1746 married the heiress of the Raworths, a young lady of a large fortune.

The manor, called HOO-HALL, BLOMEFIELD'S, and SEAMAN'S, from the names of the several owners, belonged to sir William de Hoc, knt. in 1372; and in 1479 to Thomas Hoc, esq. who infeoffed sir Thomas Arundel, knt. and others in it, and Worthing manor. In 1565 John Blomefield conveyed it to Philip Tirrel, esq. and he to Richard Garneys, esq. and it hath been ever since joined to Boyland-hall manor, in Mourningthorpe, and Fritton; the site of it is between Mourningthorpe and Hempnall, into which it extended; as also into Stratton, Tasburgh, and Saxlingham.

SHELTON, or, as it is wrote in Doomsday-book, SCELTUNA. This town in the Confessor's time belonged to bishop Stigand, and was held of him by Aldwin, or Ailwin; but at the Conqueror's survey it

was in three parts*; the head, or principal manor, called afterwards Over-hall, belonged to Roger Bigot, who infeoffed Durand in it; for which reason it was always held of the earl of Norfolk's honor of Forncet at one fee: it was then a league long, and half a league broad, paid 9d. gelt, or tax, and had a church and sixteen acres of glebe, the advowson of which then solely belonged to this manor; but when the tithes of the manor, called afterwards Nether-hall, were joined to it, the lords of that manor presented to one turn, and those of this to another; but when the moieties were separated, and one of them given by the Sheltons to Langley abbey, and the other remained with Nether-hall manor till that fell into the Sheltons, then the turn that belonged to the convent being sold to John Jenny, sen. esq. it passed with Intwood and Hardwick till it was sold by Wm. Gresham, esq. to the Gleanes, and they joined the alternate presentation to their manor at Hardwick, with which it now remains.

NETHER-HALL MANOR at the conquest was held by Nigel, of Robert Fitz-Corbun, and was then worth 20s. per ann. it passed afterwards with Boyland's manor, in Scole, till 1322, when it belonged to sir Ralph Hemenhale, knt. and before the extinction of that family was vested in the Sheltons, trustees, and ever since have been joined to their

MANOR OF OVER-HALL, which went as the capital manor of Scole to the Sheltons very early; which family, though they took their name from this village, were anciently seated at Stradbroke, in Suffolk. Nicholas de Shelton was then one of the rebelling

* There was a third part which belonged to the manor of Forncet.

belling barons against king John, and upon the surrender of Framlingham-castle, in Suffolk, he submitted, and gave his son, Robert, as a pledge for his future allegiance. This family had large inheritance here and in Suffolk.

Sir Robert de Shelton, knt. had livery of them all in 1286, and had liberty of free-warren allowed to them in *cire*. In 1302 he had fees in Mundham, Shelton, Bedingham, and Scole; and the manor of Brent-Illeigh, in Suffolk.

In 1345 sir Ralph Shelton was lord. In 1346 Edward III. granted him his letters patent, signifying that he was in the king's own company in the battle of Cressy, and there received the order of knight-hood, the king pardoning him the contempt and penalty which he had incurred for not taking that order upon him before, when his majesty issued his proclamation, that all those who had 40l. a year in land should take that order upon them. In 1355, on going beyond sea with Edward III. he had his letters of protection, and being in the battle of Poitiers, he took John Rocourt prisoner, for whom he obtained a safe conduct in 1356. This sir Ralph was cousin and heir of sir Ralph Burgullion, of Kerdistone, and dying in 1372, Nov. 17. was buried in the chancel of St. Mary's church at Shelton, and his grave-stone lieth in the midst of it, with his effigy in compleat armor. He left sir Ralph Shelton, jun. knt. his son and heir, who married Alice, daughter of sir Thomas Uvedale, of Tacolneston, knt. In 1385 he attended John duke of Lancaster in his great expedition into Spain, and was at the famous battle of Nazarett. He was in the voyage of St. Maloes de L'isle, and in that into Scotland with Richard II. and in that into Spain where sir Hugh

I f

Hastings

Hastings died: sir Ralph died April 25, 1424, as the inscription on his tomb in Great Snoring church faith.

He was succeeded by his brother, William Shelton, esq. who died seized, in 1420, of the manors of Over-hall, and Nether-hall, in right of his wife, Catherine, daughter of Simon Barrett, who lies buried in Shelton chancel, August 3, 1456. There are arms of Shelton and Burgullion quartered, and Shelton and Barrett impaled.

He had the manor of Barret's, in Hardwick, and was also possessed at his death of the manors of Snoring *Magna*, Thursford, and Burgullion's, in Kerdistone, as heir of the Burgullion family, and of Brent-Illeigh, in Suffolk, all which he left to John, his son and heir*, who had livery of his lands in 1427, and died in 1430, leaving Ralph his son and heir.

In 1500 Margaret Shelton, of Shelton, late the wife of sir Ralph Shelton, knt. willed to be buried in Shelton chancel, by her husband, in "a tumb which is ordeyned to that intent." She gave the tenements in Mouringthorpe, called Roper's, with the appurtenances, to pay the fifteenths for the towns of Shelton and Fritton. Sir John Shelton, their son and heir, was high sheriff of Norfolk in 1504, and was made knight of the bath at the coronation of Henry VIII. In 1512 a pardon was granted to this sir John Shelton, who married Ann, daughter of sir William Boleyn, of Blickling, knt. and died December 21, 1539, in the 62d year of his age, and is buried under

* In the east window of the north aisle are the effigies of Ralph Shelton, and Margaret his wife, in furcoats of their arms. This Ralph was high sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1487.

der a tomb in Shelton chancel. On the south side of the tomb are these arms: Shelton, Illeigh, Burgullion, and Shelton quartered in the nombreil. Cockfield, Shelton, and Boleyn impaled. On a north side, Shelton and Boleyn impaled. Boleyn and Butler earl of Ormond quartered.

The east window of this chancel was glazed at sir John's charge, and in it is his own effigy, in a praying posture, with his arms on his furcoat, and that of his wife, with Boleyn's asms.

Sir John, son and heir of sir John Shelton knt. was high sheriff of Norfolk in 1522, and again in 1525, and had livery of the manors of Shelton, Stratton-Sayes, Reefham-Burgullions, Scole, Bedingham, Snoring, Callowes, &c. in Norfolk, and of Brent-Illeigh, and Milding, in Suffolk. He married Margaret, daughter of sir Henry Parker, knt. son and heir of Henry lord Morley, and was one of those gentlemen that joined queen Mary at Kenninghall, in order to advance her to the crown. He is buried under an altar-monument in the chancel, on the north side, November, 1558; with the arms of Shelton and his quarterings; Shelton impaling Morley, Woodhouse, &c.

Sir Ralph Shelton, knt. high sheriff of Norfolk in 1570, had livery of his father's inheritance: he married two wives; first, Mary, daughter of sir William Woodhouse, of Waxham, knt. Secondly, Ann, daughter of Thomas Barrow, esq. of Barningham, in Suffolk, who afterwards married sir Charles Cornwallis. He lies buried on the north side of the altar, June 15, 1568; with the arms of Shelton, Illeigh, Burgullion, and Cockfield, quartered, impaling Woodhouse, of Waxham.

Thomas Shelton, esq.* his eldest son and heir, married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Flowerdew, esq. baron of the Exchequer, and was lord of Shelton, and gentleman-porter of the Tower; he died, and was succeeded by his brother, sir Ralph Shelton, knt. who married Dorothy, daughter of sir Robert Jermyn, of Rushbrooke, in Suffolk, knt. He was killed at the Isle of Rhe, in France, and dying without issue, Henry Shelton, only surviving son of sir Ralph Shelton, by Ann Barrow, his second wife, inherited, who was a captain in the low countries sixty years; he married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Jermyn, of Depden, in Suffolk, esq. and dying October 8, 1634, at Barningham, was buried here, and was succeeded by his son, Maurice Shelton, of Shelton, esq. and of Barningham, in Suffolk, which he had as heir to Ann Barrow aforesaid, his grandmother; he married Elizabeth, daughter of sir Robert Kemp, of Giffing, bart. and is buried at Shelton, leaving four sons and four daughters.

Maurice Shelton, the eldest son, married Martha, daughter of Robert Appleton, of Great Waldingfield, in Suffolk, esq. and dying without issue male, was buried at Shelton, and the estate went to his second brother, Henry Shelton, of Barningham, in Suffolk, esq. who lies buried under a black marble in Shelton chancel, with the arms of Shelton impaling Churchman: he married Hester, daughter of sir John Churchman, of Illington, knt. and died May 24, 1690, *ætat. sue* 36.

He was succeeded by his eldest son, Maurice Shelton, of Barningham, in Suffolk, esq. and since of
Bury

* His brother, John Shelton, was at the sacking of Cadiz in the time of queen Elizabeth; was afterwards knighted, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward lord Cromwell.

Bury St. Edmund's, who sold the manors of Overhall and Nether-hall, in this parish, with the alternate right of presentation to the rectory of Shelton, to the late John Howse, of Norwich, esq.

To these manors belong leets, and all royalties, with waif and stray. The fines are at the will of the lord, the eldest son is heir, and they give no dower.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, was first valued at fourteen, and afterwards at fifteen marks, and was in medieties; the abbot of Langley was patron of one, and that rector had sixteen acres of land, but no house; sir Richard Boyland was patron of the other, having purchased it in 1277 of Roger de Tasburgh; and the rector of that had a house and eighteen acres of land. The whole now lies as one rectory in the king's books, valued at 8l. and the village used to pay 2l. 17s. to every tenth. The present fabric was built by sir Ralph Shelton, knt.* and is a fine uniform brick building, having a nave, two aisles, a chancel leaded, a square tower, and one bell. His name is expressed often in the windows, viz. Raf, with an escallop shell and a tun, which cannot fail of making Sheltun. There is now a handsome new-built parsonage-house, and above thirty acres of glebe.

The rectors of the south part, or Shelton mediety, and the north part, or Langley mediety, were presented by each lord, in turn.

In 1445, the two medieties being void, and the convent having sold their mediety to the Sheltons,

14

they

* He also built the hall.

they were perpetually united June 15, by consent of the patrons, the bishop reserving *double* fees on all institutions.

The rector in 1518 was sir John Shelton, priest, whom we should have taken to have been the poet laureat of that name, had it not been that this man died in 1523, and the laureat lived to 1529.

In 1746 the Rev. Mr. John Salmon had this rectory of his father's gift, who purchased this turn of the late John Howse, esq. lord of Shelton; and the next turn belongs to Barret's manor, in Hardwick, which Edward Bacon, esq. of Earlsam, now enjoys.

There was a grand antique mansion, or manor-house, here, built by sir Ralph Shelton, in a square form, with an out-side imbattled, and a turret at each corner, moated in, with a grand gate-space at the entrance, and a turret at each corner of it. In the windows and cielings were many coats of the matches of the Sheltons, &c. but the whole is now ruined. The demesnes and the park, &c. were sold by the Sheltons from the manors, as we are informed, to sir Robert Houghton, knt. serjeant at law, and one of the justices of the King's-bench, who died in 1623 seized of the manors of Leffley, Buxhall, Brettenham, and Hecham, in Suffolk, and their leets. This judge was born at Gunthorpe, in Norfolk, August 3, 1548, and was buried February 6, 1623, in the church of St. Dunstan in the West, London, for whom there is a noble cenotaph in this chancel, with his effigy in his judge's robes, and those of his wife, and son, kneeling on the top of it, and an inscription; with Houghton's arms quartering Richers.

A black marble in the church,—*To William Pearse, gent. Aug. 3, 1711, aged 80. Elizabeth, wife of Charles Pearse, gent. Aug. 10, 1714, aged 34.*

In the windows of this church and chancel were all the matches of the Shelton family put up, many of which still remain; and the same were in the windows, and on the cieling in Shelton-hall, and are the same exactly as those in Carrowe-abbey, only the impalement of Burgullion is there omitted, it being lost.

Here are in the church also the following arms: Witchingham, Howe, Scutumbre, Heydon, and Boleyn. Calthorpe quartering Burgullion. Dovedale impaling gul. a chev. erm. between three delis's or. Fitz-Walter and Shelton. Stapleton and Hingham. Clere and Dovedale. Clere and Hawkforth. Howard, Bedingfield, and Shelton. Boleyn, Butler, and Ormond. Boleyn, Howe, and Witchingham. Vere quartering Howard and Plays. Shelton and Plays. Shelton quartering Clere and Dovedale. Yelverton and Brewse. Braunch and Bardolph. Lowdham and Shelton. Brewse and Shardelowe. Mundeford and Barrett. Knevet and Shelton.

Many of the arms were in the chapel in Shelton-hall, where the several lodging-rooms were called after the names of those families whose arms were placed in them, as Morley's chamber, Howard's chamber, &c.

There was formerly a manuscript kept at the hall, which had a drawing of the house in it, and the arms of such families as the Sheltons married into, and many of the quarterings of those families. The
grand

grand coat of Shelton there was, Shelton quartering Illeigh, Burgullion, Cockfield, and Barrett, quartered.

The impalements are forty-seven, viz.—Shelton and Fitz-Hammond, Ditto and Gelding, Creeting, Vaux, Harling, Martin, Illeigh, Plais, Bures, Tendring, Winter, Mellers, Ufford, Thorington, Burgullion, Cockfield, Lowdham, Dovedale, Heveningham, a fess between three delis's or. Mohun, Peyton, Stapleton, Calthorpe, Poynings, Gilbert, Barrett, Lewes, Brewse, Thorpe, of Ashwellthorpe, St. Philebert, Delabre, Talbot earl of Shrewsbury, Clere, Nottingham, Marke, Broome, Bedingfield, Boleyn, Wodehouse, of Kimberley, Nottingham, Parker lord Morley, Woodhouse, of Waxham, Cromwell, Barrow, Appleyard, and Jermyn.

Other matches of Shelton in the same book are, Bernardiston impaling Shelton, Lowdham impales Shelton, as do the following names, viz. Wentworth, Fitz-Walter, Ufford, Heveningham, Bedingfield, Boleyn, Knyvet, Denny, Godsalve, Scudamore, Walsingham, Hunt, Lewes, Joceline, Afke, Wodehouse, of Kimberley, Stanton, Nappier, Bacon, Southwell, and Fernley; so that hence it appears that gentlemen of all these families have married into this family.

There are also the arms of Shelton, with a crescent, and other differences for younger brothers, impaling twenty-four coats, which shew that the younger brothers of the family matched into those families.

We find two small manors in this, and the adjoining towns of Hempnall, Friuton, &c. called Blomefield's, and Seaman's, as the abuttals of the lands in Shelton court-books mention; and the estate, late the Houghton's, being the park, &c. which Charles
Houghton

Houghton owned in 1665, belongs now (as we are informed) to sir Edmund Bacon, of Ravensingham, bart.

STRATTON, properly called STRATON, or STRATUM, the paved highway, or street, it being the direct road that led to the neighbouring Roman burgh, or fortification, *ad Taum*, now called Tasburgh, and thence to their station, *Castrum*, or *Camp*, called Castre, or Castor. In those early times the whole of the three villages, or parishes, that pass now by this name, was one only, and afterwards was often called Estratuna, the street at the Ee, or water, which now parts this from Tasburgh; it is commonly called Long Stratton, the bounds being so large, and the *Stratum* aforesaid running in a strait line such a long way through it.

It originally belonged to the East Anglian kings, and the superior jurisdiction over the whole remained in the crown, till the Conqueror gave it (Estratuna) to Alan earl of Richmond, who held it at the survey, and it hath ever since attended the honor of Richmond, and belongs to it at this day.

Formerly there were three parishes, two of which, St. Mary, and St. Michael, are in being; the third, St. Peter, has been dilapidated since Henry VII. The whole was then four miles and three furlongs in length, and two miles and four furlongs in breadth, and paid 25d. to the gelt, or tax. The earl had eight free-men that held lands, which were valued with, and esteemed part of his manor of Costessey; and seventeen free-men, &c. were subject to his jurisdiction here; the honor held two turns, or superior leets, in every year, to which all the tenants of the other manors were obliged to do suit and service, as well

well as to the three several leets belonging to the three capital manors of the three different parishes; and very anciently there was a weekly market held here, belonging to Richmond honor; but upon some disputes between the lord of Stratton-hall, and the lessee of the honor, just before the Reformation, the market, as having no peculiar justification for holding it, was totally disused, and hath been so to this day.

In 1435 John duke of Bedford, lord of Swaffham, and of the honor of Richmond, died seised of the superior court here, called "the Honor Turn," and the stile of it was thus: "The turn and general court of the king's honor of Richmond," held at Stratton, April 30, 1644, when a churchwarden and four men out of each parish appeared to do the suit and service for the several parishes of Stratton, Mourningthorpe, Carleton, Tibbenham, Moulton, Wacton, Tasburgh, Fritton, Keckleton, in Forncet, and Bunwell, in all which places it appears that the honor had leets and royalties over the commons, and superior jurisdiction over the several lords.

Sigebert, king of the East Angles, on his erection of the bishopric, gave the southern part of the town to Felix the first bishop of the East Angles, and so it became part of the bishopric; and in the time of the Confessor bishop Ailmar held it as such, when there were lands, &c. and twelve free-men, whose rents and services were valued at 20s. per ann. and at the conquest Walter the Deacon, and one Ralph, held it of the bishopric, in right of which they had a leet, the half of which belonged to them, and the other half to the king and the earl; and the whole of the profits of this manor was then worth 6l. per annum. The mother church of St. Mary the Virgin always belonged

belonged to it, which was probably founded by one of the bishops that owned it, and that before Ailmar's time; and the successors of this Ralph owned the part which afterwards was called Stratton-hall manor, and was held of the barony of the bishopric of Norwich till that was taken from the see by Henry VIII. and annexed to the crown, and since it is held of the crown in right of that ancient barony.

That part called Stratton St. Michael was held by the Confessor till he gave it one of his thanes, or noblemen, and it was worth 30s. per ann. it was risen to 40s. value at the conquest, and a leet belonged to it, when Robert Corbutio, or Fitz-Corbun, held it, and infeoffed it in one Hunfrid, or Humfrey, the ancestor of the family, afterwards surnamed de Stratton, lords of the manors here, afterwards called Rhees's, and Welholme's, which last was a part of the former, granted off by the Strattons, and though they extended into the other parts, lay chiefly in Stratton St. Michael, the church of which, in all probability, was first founded by Hunfrid aforesaid, and the advowson attended the manor.

The third part belonged to the crown till the Conqueror gave it to Roger Bigot, who added one small part of it to his manor of Forncet, to which the advowson of Stratton St. Peter always belonged, so that it is likely this earl was founder of that church; but the chief part he granted off, and that had the leet of all its tenants, and was afterwards called Saye's, or the manor of Stratton St. Peter.

There was a small part that belonged to the abbot of Bury's manor of Mourningthorpe, and another to St. Etheldred's manor of Pulham, which belonged to Ely monastery and see.

The

The manors, called Sturmy's and Snapehall, were first severed from Stratton-hall, into which they fell again, and there continue.

Thus having fixed the origin of the several manors and parishes, we shall treat of them in their order; and first of

STRATTON-HALL, or STRATTON ST. MARY'S MANOR, belonged to Philip Malherbe one of the lords of Tacolneston; and in the time of Richard I. was held at one knight's fee of the bishop of Norwich, as of the barony of the fee.

Roger Malherbe, who lived at Tacolneston, and was a benefactor to Wymondham abbey, died seized of it, and it went with one of his daughters and heiresses to Gilbert de Bourne, who occurs lord and patron about 1273, and came and settled here; and in 1285 was returned as a gentleman of estate that was much above age, and ought to have been knighted, but had not yet taken up that honor, for which he was fined,

In 1286 this Gilbert had free-warren allowed him, waif, and view of frank-pledge, over all his tenants, with the assize of bread and ale, on condition that the king's bailiff was always present at the leet, to see that none but the tenants of the manor did suit there; he had also a fair allowed him to be kept once a year, August 15. This fair was first granted by king John, in the year 1207, to Roger de Stratton, who gave that king one good palfrey to have his charter for liberty to hold a fair yearly for two days at his manor of Stratton; but it is to be observed, that he was lord of Saye's manor here, and that Bourne purchased the liberty from it, and added it to this manor; it was kept

kept in a close opposite to the west part of the church-yard, which is still called the fair lond, or land, but it hath been disused many years.

In 1325 Ralph Malherbe claimed the manor against Roger de Bourne, and made out his title under the claim so well, that Roger settled an annuity of 40l. on him and his wife during their lives, for their release. In 1331 he was a knight, and was succeeded by sir Nicholas de Bourne, knt. He died without issue male. Margery, one of his daughters and heiresses, was first wife to John de Harling; and in 1336 Elizabeth, another daughter of sir Nicholas Bourne, released to John de Harling all her right in this manor and advowson, and in the advowson of Wacton St. Mary, and in all the Bournes estates in Wacton, Tasburgh, Mourningshorpe, Moulton, &c. reserving an annuity of twenty marks to Robert Mortimer, and Margaret, his wife, who was widow of sir Nicholas de Bourne, remarried to Mortimer; he died seised of this, and Sturmy's and Snape-hall manors here*; and from this time it passed with the manors of East Harling, till it came to the Bedingfields, of Oxburgh, by the marriage of sir Edmund Bedingfield with Margaret, daughter of sir Robert de Tuddenham, and it continued in that family till sir Henry Bedingfield sold it to sir Edmund Reeve, lord chief justice of the common-pleas, who was preferred to that high station March 14. 1638, and died March 27, 1647, and having no issue, left his estate to Augustine Reeve, his brother, and he to his son, Mr. Henry Reeve, of Bracondale, who sold the manors, &c. to the Rev. John Mallom, of Booton, at whose death

* Sturmy's, Snape-hall, Welholme's, and Rees's manors, were all in the Harling family, and have had the same owners as Bourne's, or Stratton-hall, ever since.

death they descended to John Mallom, of Wacton *Magna*, who left them to John Mallom, of Wacton, esq. who was lord: but the patronage of Stratton St. Mary, which was appendant to this manor, was sold by him, and his father, to Caius College, in Cambridge, who are now patrons.

The united manors of Welholme's, and Rhees', of which Stratton-hall is the manor-house, was afterwards sold to John Ramey, esq. of Yarmouth, who sold them to the present owner, the Rev. Randall Burroughs. Mr. Burroughs has a most elegant and delightful seat at the south end of the village, where he resides.

The leet is held annually, at which the constables for Stratton St. Mary are always chosen, and the leet-fee paid to the lord is 8d.

The customs of this manor, as well as those of the manors of Sturmer's, or Sturmy'n's, Snape-hall, Welholme's, and Rhees', all which are now held with this manor, are the same, viz. all lands and tenements descend to the eldest son; the fines are arbitrary, and they give no dower. The manor-house, called Stratton-hall, and the demesnes, were not sold with the manors, but were the estate of the late John Houghton, of Bramerton, esq. Round the manor-house is a deep moat.

The church of St. Mary, commonly in old evidences called Stratton *cum Turri*, viz. Stratton with the steeple, (by which it should seem, that anciently the other two churches had none) was in the patronage of Gilbert de Bourne when Norwich Doom-day-book was wrote; the rector had a house and forty acres of glebe, now encreased to fifty.

In

In 1612 return was made that a yearly pension of 55s. was paid on Michaelmas-day by the rector here, to the rector of Stratton St. Michael, which is now duly paid. The rectory was valued first at fourteen, and afterwards at twenty marks, and stands now thus in the king's books:—10l. Stratton *Longa Mariæ R.* 11. tenths—and being undischarged, it pays first-fruits and yearly tenths, and is not capable of augmentation.

Edmund Cross, rector here, died in 1471, and was buried in the church before St. Mary's image, and gave a good missal, 3l. 10s. to buy a cross, and his tenement, late Scot's, in this town, to the profit of the town.

In 1603 the rector returned answer, that he had in the parish 180 communicants.

In 1766 the Rev. Charles Carver was presented to the rectory of Long Stratton St. Mary by the master and fellows of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, *p. j.**

The prior of Thetford monks was taxed at 12s. to each tenth, for his temporals here. The abbot of Langley for his 6d. The prior of Norwich at 16d. 0b. and the whole parish paid clear to each tenth, without the taxation of the religious aforesaid, 6l. 10s.

There were two guilds here, the most ancient one was the guild held in honor of St. John the Baptist. Sir Roger de Bourne, the founder, was en-
K dowed

* The college must always present the senior fellow. The yearly value of the tithes are said to be worth two hundred pounds, besides surplice fees.

dowed with a house, called the Guild-hall, and half an acre of ground thereto belonging in Stratton, which being copyhold of Forncet manor, was seized by the lord at the dissolution, and granted to be held by copy of court-roll; it was given in the time of Henry VII. by Robert Barnard.

The half acre copyhold on Forncet, upon which a little house is built, but was guild land, was lately purchased for a dwelling-house for a dissenting teacher. The barn owned by the late Rev. Mr. Soley is the very Guild-hall, and is freehold, held of Stratton manor at 1s. per ann. free-rent.

In this parish also was an anchorage of ancient foundation, with a small chapel, or oratory, adjoining. In 1256 William de Suffield, *alias* Calthorpe, bishop of Norwich, gave a legacy to the anchorite here, and at the dissolution the chapel was granted from the crown into private hands*. Here is an estate of 20l. per ann. settled on the rector of St. Edmund, in Norwich.

STURMY, STURMIN, OR STURMER'S MANOR, was so called from Robert le Sturmy, of Stratton, who had a grant of it from the Malherbes; and sir William le Sturmy, knt. his son, was lord of it in 1262, and held it at one fee of the bishop of Norwich; and in 1285 he had a leet, and assize of bread and ale of all tenants allowed in *cire*; and sir John de Sturmy in 1327 obtained of Edward II. a charter for free-warren for all his lands here, &c. In 1345 Robert Sturmy held it by 6d. a year paid to the bishop, by whom it was sold to the lord of Stratton-hall manor, and

* *In Stratton, libera capella ruinosa, teni' per Will. Grice, arm' et hered' in de manerio de Estgreenwich in foccagio 8 Elix.*

and hath passed with it ever since. The manor-house is down; the scite is inclosed with a mote, and is now called Sturmin's-yard.

Snape-hall Manor was another part of the capital manor, granted to the family of the Snapest, and was in 1307 in the hands of Stephen de Brockdish; it had then a house and sixty acres of demesne land, quit-rents to the value of 3l. 8s. 8d. and was held of the honor of Richmond at 19d. per annum rent; and in 1339 it was conveyed to sir John le Sturmyrn, and his heirs; and so it was joined with Sturmer's manor, and with that fell into Stratton-hall manor, and there continues.

The town is a small, but compact village, and hath a good public-house or two, for the reception of travellers; its standing on the London road from Ipswich, Colchester, and Bury, to Norwich, makes it pretty much frequented. The justices of the peace for this division generally meet here, and have done so very anciently; for in 1380 the justices and country gentlemen, in the time of the insurrection, met here to consult what was best to be done for the king's service and country's safety.

St. Mary's church stands close east side the turnpike road, is a large building, with a round steeple fifty-four feet high, and a small spire on its top, against which the clock bell hangs, on the out-side; there are now five bells; the nave and two ailes are fifty-six feet long, and forty-four broad, and the chancel is thirty-six feet long, and twenty broad; the church-yard is very large, containing about an

K 2

acre

† In 1420 sir John Snape, rector of St. Michael, in Stratton, was a descendent from this family.

acre and a quarter. The steeple is a much older building than the church, the present fabric of which was built chiefly by sir Roger de Bourne. knt. lord and patron, about 1330, and the chancel by Richard de Bourne, his brother, then rector here; and it seems as if one John, or James de Bourne, glazed the clerestories, or lights, in the nave; for J. B. in old capitals remain still in the several windows there, as do the arms of Bourne in the east chancel window; and in the north window of the Baptist's chapel, at the upper end of the north aisle, which sir Roger built for his own burial place, is now a broken inscription. His stone is robbed of its inscription, circumscription, arms, and effigies, and nothing remains thereon, save two brass effigies of corpses looking out of their winding sheet. Sir Roger lies buried under a low raised tomb, and near him lies his brother, Richard, under a flat stone. The south porch, two aisles, nave, and north vestry, which is now used as a school-house, are all leaded, as is the east part of the chancel, the western part of which is thatched.

At the east end of the chancel, against the north wall, is erected a very sumptuous marble monument, on the alter part of which are the incumbent effigies of judge Reeve, and his lady, in their proper proportions and habits; he in his judges robes, with a roll in one hand, and the other under his head; she with a book in her left hand, and her head supported by two cushions; their arms, and a very copious Latin inscription: he died March 27, 1647; she died March 12, 1657, and was interred in the same vault with her husband, under this monument.

On the opposite south wall is a monument, with Reeve's arms, erected to the memory of—*Thomas Reeve, esq. Oct. 1, 1663, ætat. 69. Thomas, his eldest son,*

son, November 26, 1656, *ætat.* 20. John, his youngest son, April 13, 1660, *ætat.* 18.—Many of the Reeves were rectors here.

On a black marble in the altar.—*Hic jacet Johannes Reve, Norf. A. M. Canonice ordinatus presbyter, vir omnigena eruditione apprime instructus, exemplari pietate perquam ornatus, summisque virtutibus eminenter præclarus, hujus ecclesiæ pastor fidelissimus, ubi cum novemdecim annis munere ministrali indefesse functus esset, terrenam hanc vitam anno ætatis suæ quadragesimo nono Febr. die decimo, et anno Domini mill: sexcent: quinquag: octavo, pro celesti gloria commutavit.*

The following persons are buried under divers marbles in the chancel:

Mrs. Elizabeth Keene, widow, daughter of Augustine Reve, of Bracondale, near Norwich, esq. January 21, 1710, ætat. 79.

Ann Houghton, sole daughter and heiress of Henry Reve, of Bracondale, who married the eldest son of John Houghton, of Bramerton, esq. and left issue only one son, John, ob. 6 May, 1705. Robert Houghton, esq. ob. 1 Dec. 1715, ætat. 36.

Houghton impaling Reeve,—*Ric. Reeve, 1727.—John Reeve, father of rector Reeve, 1658.*

Elizabeth Baspool gave 1l. 6s. to be given weekly in bread at the church, to the poor, for ever, and tied all her lands in Stratton for payment thereof, now the estate of Mr. Joseph Cotman, of Great Yarmouth.

John Roope gave 11. 6s. to be paid yearly out of the ale-house, called the Swan, in Stratton St. Mary, which he tied for payment thereof, on condition the said premisses be not rated to any tax above 13l. per annum, otherwise the gift to cease; it is given in bread at church, as the other.

Thomas Pudding gave 12s. yearly to the poor, till 10l. be paid to the church-wardens, and tied his estate, now in the possession of William Booty, for it, lying in Stratton St. Michael.

William Pudding gave 12s. yearly, issuing out of William Booty's estate, till 10l. be paid to the church-wardens for the use of the poor.

Half an acre of ground, with four cottages thereon built, now inhabited by the poor, were given by Nicholas Porter, and Thomas Stanton, in the time of James I.

Elizabeth Keene, widow, daughter of Augustine Reeve, and niece to the judge, gave by will 2l. 10s. yearly, to be laid out in blue gowns for the poor of Stratton St. Mary, during the life of her nephew, John Houghton, of Bramerton, esq.

The church of Stratton St. Peter always belonged to Forncet manor, and was founded by Roger Bigot about the conquest, in all appearance. In 1195, by fine then levied, William de Stratton, as trustee, settled it on Gundred the countess for life, and the remainder to Roger le Bigot and his heirs for ever; it was valued at five, and afterwards at six marks: it was consolidated September 10, 1449, to the church of Stratton St. Michael, which stands not above a bow-shot distant from it; and it was agreed, that as a recompence

recompence for this patronage, St. Mary's, *alias* Winchester college. in Oxford, should present two turns, and the duke of Norfolk every third turn, and that St. Peter's should exist as a separate parish still, and the rector should serve in each church every Sunday; and it continued so till the dissolution, when being returned as a chapel only, it was totally demolished, and was laid to St. Michael's parish, and hath continued as part of it ever since; nothing is to be seen of the church, but the foundation, level with the ground. which show that it was a small building. The scite is still called St. Peter's church-yard, and being plowed over, often turns up human bones.

SAYE'S MANOR belonged to, and lay chiefly in this parish, and was granted from the other part of the parish, and the advowson, by the Bigots, lords of Forncet, to William de Say, who held it at a quarter of a fee. John de Say in 1285 had a leet, view of frank-pledge, and the assize of bread and ale over all his tenants in Stratton, and held it at a quarter of a fee of the lord of Forncet, who held it of the earl of Gloucester as of Clare honor. In 1296 the rents of this manor were 46s. 6d. per ann. but in 1317 Jeffery de Say conveyed it by fine to John de Holveston, who afterwards held it of the lord Say, &c. and in 1401 Geffry de Fransham held it of the lord Say, he of the earl of March, &c. In 1414 William de Taverham conveyed to Richard Pigot, and his feoffees, all his property of Say's manor in Long Stratton, and it continued in the Pigots till it passed with Ann, daughter and coheirefs of Thomas Pigot, of Sturston, to Robert Barnard, of Norwich, esq. her husband; she settled it by will on sir Robert Southwell, and other feoffees, to find a priest to sing for their souls in the Black Friars Church, in Nor-

wich, where they are buried, at their tomb, which is now standing, and was lately used for St. George's company to meet at: they left two daughters co-heiresses; Eleanor, married Christopher Calthorpe, of Cockthorpe, esq. and Elizabeth, John Legge; and this was assigned to Legge in 1511, and Calthorpe had Sturston manor, and a rent charge of 11. 6s. out of this, which sir James Calthorpe, and his son, Christopher, sold to William Matchet, of Moulton, clerk, who had purchased this manor of John Legge; and in 1539 sir John Shelton, knt. was lord, and Ralph Shelton, his cousin, was lord in 1570; he it was that manumised the whole, sold the rents to the several tenants, and the demesnes to Nicholas Porter, and so the manor and leet also extinguished for want of tenants. The scite came afterwards to the Culyer's, and Abigail Norris, widow, of Barton-Tuft, sold it to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Howes, rector of Mounningthorpe, who now owns it, and the demesnes, called Say's.

Stratton St. Michael. This rectory was given by Walter Giffard to the priory of Longeville, in Normandy, with Weston, and Witchingham, in Eynsford hundred; the rector had then a house and ten acres of glebe, and now there are twenty-eight acres and an half, in thirty-one pieces, lying about the town. The parsonage house joins to the south-east part of the church-yard, and the east part of it, (as we are informed) is copyhold of Rhees's manor, and belongs to a farm adjoining to the east part of the parsonage-house, now owned by Thomas Howes, clerk. It was valued without the portion at eight marks, and paid 10s. 8d. tenths, and the rector paid a portion of 13s. 4d. per ann. to the prior of Longaville, which is now paid to New College, in Oxford, who had the
patronage

patronage from William of Wickham, their founder, by grant from the king, it being vested in the crown as belonging to a dissolved alien priory. It stands in the present value by a false name thus:—6l. 12s. 8d. ob. *Stratton Omnium Sanctorum R.* 13s. 3d. tenths, —and we suppose came to be fixed so, because anciently the church is called St. Michael and All Saints; but strange it is, that the names both of St. Peter and St. Michael, (by which only this rectory is known) should be omitted: as it is not discharged it is capable of augmentation.

The church, which stands about a furlong east of the turnpike road, is twenty-five yards long, and seven broad; it is a small church, with a square tower, and no bell*; the south porch is tiled, the nave and chancel thatched, the last of which was built by John Cowall, rector here in 1487; he lies buried in the middle of the chancel, with an inscription on a brass plate, now loose. But though he built the chancel in 1487, he continued rector till 1509; his will is in register Spyltimer, fol. 225. in which is this: “Also my house in the street, called Pepyrs, I
 “ wol the state ther of, with all the lands ther of,
 “ shall remayne in the handys of feoffys, and in the
 “ attorneys of them. to my perishiners beholfe, in ex-
 “ cusing of tenths and tallage, when it sallyth, and
 “ the overplus to the reparation of the churchys of
 “ St. Michael, and St. Peter, in the said town, ever-
 “ more; seen, that the cunstabyll and the church-
 “ wardynns shall let it, and repare it, with the ferme
 “ of it; and the residewe of the ferme I wol yt re-
 “ mayne in the handys of the said constabyll and
 “ wardynns,

* There were three; for in 1699 a licence passed to sell a bell, under pretence to repair the church, which had lands sufficient for its reparation.

“ wardynns, and yerly they make accounte before
 “ all the parishe, and they to excuse the rent of it to
 “ the lordys of the fee.” This house, with about
 twelve acres of land, part copy, and part free, is
 now in feoffees hands, and is worth about 10l. per
 ann. and the churchwardens receive the rent, and
 apply it as it ought to be, to repair the church, since
 the taxes of tenths and tallages are ceased. The nave
 was finished in 1440.

There was another brass plate in the chancel, now
 lost,—*For Richard Vynne**, Jan. 26, 1626, aged 76.

There is an altar-tomb in the church-yard, on the
 south side,—*For William Weddall, gent. 1730, and*
Mary, his wife, who was daughter of Thomas Dixon.

The rector of Mourningshorpe pays a yearly pen-
 sion of 18s. to the rector here, on Lammas-day, for
 exchange of tithes, as mentioned in the Terrier.

In 1347 the rector was first presented by the king,
 the prior of Newenton Longaville's lands being seized
 into his hands, on account of the war with France.
 It remained in royal patronage till 1439, when sir
 Ralph Rochford, knt. presented; and being granted
 from the crown, it was settled on the custos and
 scholars of St. Mary, *alias* Winchester College, in
 Oxford, at the request of the founder; and in 1449
 was consolidated to St. Peter's: ever since New Col-
 lege hath two turns, and the duke of Norfolk the
 third; but the perpetual advowson of that third turn
 was sold to John Soley, rector of Stratton St. Mary,
 from

* This family were rectors here for near two centuries, many
 of whom lie buried in the chancel.

from whom the late Rev. Edward Hibgame bought it*.

In 1603 the rector returned answer, that here were ninety-one communicants.

In 1629 John Merewether held it united to Tasburgh, from both which he was ejected by the earl of Manchester's scandalous committee, and one Cooke was put in, "being a godly man," to preach, and had 5s. a Sunday allowed him by the sequestrators out of the tithes, and Mrs. Merewether had a fifth part of the profits to maintain herself and six children; he being also deprived of his temporal estate of 50l. per annum, the rest was ordered to go towards maintaining the parliament forces, &c. but it seems Cooke was not "godly" enough for those rebels; for in 1654 they put in one Richard Laurence, who held it by intrusion till Merewether's death, which happened before the restoration, when the custos, &c. presented in 1660.

In 1762 the late Rev. Edward Hibgame, as patron of this turn, presented himself to the rectory of Stratton All Saints, with St. Michael, and St. Peter, *p. h. v.* In 1778, April 28, he died, and the Rev. Francis Wickham Swanton was presented by New College, Oxon. Aug. 15 following.

WELHOLME'S, or WELHAM'S MANOR, was granted by the Strattons, from their manor, to the Welholmes; and in 1285 Alexander de Welholme had a leet, or view of frank-pledge, and assize of bread and ale allowed him in *cire*, on condition he paid 8d. a year to the

* The present tithes of this rectory, we are told, are worth one hundred and fifty pounds, besides surplice fees.

the king's bailiff of Depwade hundred for that liberty; and he held it at half a fee, and half a quarter of a fee, of sir John Inglose, he of Isabel queen of England, and she of the king, as heir to Montcalt, lord of Rising-Castle. In 1401 John Brusyard had it, and it was purchased by sir John Harling, knt. and ever since hath passed as Stratton-hall manor, the customs being the same, and the court is always held at the same time*.

The demesnes and scite severed from the manor were late Booty's, and were owned by the late John Howse, esq. of Mourningthorpe, who also had the demesnes of Rhees's manor here, severed anciently from that manor, which is now (and for a long time hath been) joined to Welholme's, the stile being, Welholme's, or Welham's and Rhees's, in Stratton.

This manor was infeoffed by Fitz-Corbun, as is already observed, in one Hunfrid, or Humfrey, whose descendents assumed the name of Stratton, and it was in Robert de Stratton†. In 1249 Ralph de Stratton, called also de Bosco, or Bois‡, held it at one fee, and was fined for not being a knight. In 1285 John de Stratton was killed by William de Dunston; but it being found that he did it in his own defence, and not feloniously, or maliciously, he had the king's pardon, which he pleaded before the itinerant justices at Norwich.

In 1270 Robert de Stratton sold part of the demesnes to Richard de Boyland, who joined them to his

* Here are lands now called Welholme, or Wellum woods.

† He sold the advowson from the manor.

‡ Took the additional name of de Bosco from the wood he dwelt by.

his manor of Boyland-hall, in Mourningthorpe. In 1404 it belonged to John Rhees, and William Rhees, esq. who sold the manor in 1407 to John Kirtling, clerk, and Robert Park, and the heirs of John, but reserved the scite and demesnes; the manor was soon afterwards conveyed to sir Robert Harling, and ever since hath attended the manor of Stratton-hall.

The scite and demesnes, called Rhees's messuage §, in 1449 were conveyed to Thomas Ludham, clerk, and Thomas Howes, chaplain to sir John Fastolf, and their heirs; and in 1464, Howes and Ludham having conveyed it to sir John, John Paston, heir to sir John Fastolf, died seised, and since it hath passed through many conveyances to John Howes, esq.

In 1285 it was returned before the justices in *oire* that the king was defrauded of the service of a serjeanty, due for lands here in the time of king John, worth 5l. per ann. by the serjeanty of finding one horseman in the king's war whenever there happens to be war in England, and that Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, then held it subtracted from the king; to which the earl, by his attorney, answered, that he held it of Richmond honor in *capite*, and that it was in the hands of Henry III. who gave that honor, with all belonging to it, except Costessey manor, to Peter de Subaudia, or of Savoy; and after that Roger Bigot, ancestor of the present earl, purchased it of Richard de Haddefco, as held of the said honor, and that it was now held of John de Britain, lord of the honor, by the service aforesaid, but not by any serjeanty;

§ There is a piece of land, about half an acre, moated round, where the manor-house of Rhees formerly stood; but there are now no remains of the building.

jeanty; upon which he was dismissed, and it hath ever since passed with Forncet manor.

A weekly market was formerly held in Long Stratton, which, on account of an epidemic distemper that raged in this part of the kingdom, was disused. That this town hath been of note is evident by the vast number of coins found about it. A John Sharpe hath in his possession a great many Roman, Saxon, and English coins, and petrifications, taken up here in the last twenty years by himself; he has dug up several ancient coins in his garden; and in 1773, on opening a gravel-pit about a furlong from the town, several urns were found in a very regular form, six feet below the surface, most of which were broke by the workmen, one only being preserved from their ignorance and carelessness; it is curiously ornamented, and had a common red pan laid over it: it is now in the collection of sir John Berney, bart. of Kirby-Bedon.

About ten yards distant from the same gravel-pit, and at about the same depth, a hearth was lately discovered; it is four yards square, and had on it ashes and burnt earth three inches deep. This, no doubt, was the place, according to ancient custom, where dead bodies were burnt. Two copper coins were also found on the hearth, but so imperfect that they cannot be made out.

The village of Long Stratton is pleasantly situated on the great turnpike road from Norwich, ten miles, to Scole Inn ten, Bury thirty-two, Ipswich thirty-three, Colchester fifty, and London 100 miles. The stage coaches pass through daily, and its vicinity to Norwich renders a residence here very desirable, either for business or pleasure.

TACOLNESTON,

TACOLNESTON, commonly called TACLESTON*, belonged to Stigand the bishop in the Confessor's time, who held it as a berewic to Wymondham; it was then worth 10l. per ann. when the Conqueror's survey was made 20l. and it belonged to that prince, and was under the custody, or care, of Godric his sewer; it was about three miles in length, and one in breadth, and paid 10d. ob. to the gelt, or tax. There was then a part of it which belonged to Roger Bigot's manor of Forncet, and went as Forncet manor did, and continues with it to this day.

The whole town, except Bigot's part, was in the crown till Henry I. gave it to Richard de Lucy, who held it at three fees, and paid castle-ward for them to Dover-castle, and he gave two of them to sir Robert de Mounteney, who held them in 1161; and the other fee to Hugh, son of Hamel, or Hameline, who then held it of Dover-castle, and they were always held afterwards of the honor of Dover, and of the Fitz-Walters, as of their manor of Hempnall.

Hugh was succeeded by Reginald Ovedale, de Uvedale, or D'ovedale, and John de Uvedale, his brother; the first held his part at half a fee of Walter Fitz-Robert, and the last held his of him at the fourth part of a fee, and this constituted the manor called afterwards, from its owners, D'ovedale's, Doverdale, or Tacolneston manor. Simon Fitz-Richard held a fourth part of a fee, which made up the manor, called afterwards the earl's manor; Hugh, son of Eustace, of Tacolneston, held one fee of Walter Fitz-Robert, which was afterwards called William's manor; and Bartholomew Malherbe held one fee of
Walter

* Villa Tacolvi, from some ancient owner; it is wrote Tacolnestuna in Doomfday-book.

Walter Fitz-Robert, which was afterwards joined to Tacolneston manor; and the aforesaid manors had their several shares in the advowson, all which were purchased by Hugh de D'ovedale, and so the advowson attended D'ovedale's manor.

TACOLNESTON, OR D'OVEDALE'S MANOR, descended from Reginald de Uvedale to Hugh de Uvedale, who in 1214 purchased a part of the advowson of Robert Mortimer, and became lord and sole patron; at which time Malherbe's part was united to it. In 1274 he had liberty of free-warren allowed to the manor, view of frank-pledge, and assize of bread and ale over all his tenants. In 1285 the king's charter for liberty of warren was allowed in *cire*, but the other liberties belonged to the king's hundred, whose bailiff was to be present at every leet, and receive three shillings a year of the lord for liberty of holding a leet. He was succeeded by sir John D'ovedale, his son and heir, about 1306, when he held here one fee of Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk. In 1318 this John gave his manor of Bedingham to the canons of Walsingham, upon which an inquisition being brought, the jury presented, "that besides the manor of Bedingham which John de Uvedale gave the canons of Walsingham, at that time John had his manor of Tacolneston, and several lands and tenements in Newton-Flotman, to the value of 40*l*. which would fully satisfy all customs and services, as well of the manor so given, as of the lands remaining in scutage, view of frank-pledge, aids, tallages, wards, fines, redemptions, amerciaments, contributions, and all emergencies; and that the said John might still be put on all assizes, juries, and recognizances, as before the said gift, so that the country would not be more charged than before the said John gave that manor." This we have transcribed at length

length, as shewing, in a good measure, the reason for making the statute of mortmain.

This lordship continued in the possession of this family* of the D'ovedale, or Uvedale, and in 1388 sir John obtained a charter from Richard II. confirming the charter of Edward I. dated May 16, 1303, by which that king granted to sir John de Uvedale, and his heirs, a weekly market on Wednesday, to be held at his manor of Tacolneston, and two fairs yearly, to be held at the said manor; the market and fair have been long since disused. He died about 1434; for in that year Robert Clere, esq. of Ormesby, held his first court for the manor of Tacolneston D'ovedale's, jointly with Elizabeth, his wife, only daughter and heiress of Thomas Uvedale, esq. She outlived him, and died in 1492, and was buried by her husband, in Norwich cathedral. About 1600 sir Henry Clere, bart. of Ormesby, mortgaged it to Mr. John Browne, of Sparkes, in Tacolneston, who afterwards joined with sir Henry, and sold it to Richard Brockden, or Brogden, alderman of Norwich. His son, James Brockden, was killed before Namur about 1695; he had three wives, but no issue by any; his mother, Mary, held this manor for life, and afterwards remarried to John Ladd, surgeon, of Norwich; it afterwards belonged to Benjamin Andrews, who sold it to Edmund Knipe, of Tacolneston, esq. the late lord, who resided at a good house here, about two furlongs west of the church, anciently the seat of the Brownes, called Sparkes: William Knipe, esq. was his son and heir. This mansion is now the seat and manor-house of Knipe Gobbet, esq. alderman (and mayor in 1771) of the city of Norwich, and

L lieutenant-

* This was a very numerous family, many of them being considerable owners in this county.

lieutenant-colonel of the West Norfolk regiment, in which corps he has served for many years. In 1779 he gave the corporation of Norwich one hundred pounds, to be disposed of as they might think proper, and soon after that corporate body presented the colonel with a handsome field tent, marquee, and camp equipage, in testimony of their esteem for his thus dedicating so much of his attention to the defence and service of this country—at a time when threatened by an INVASION.

WILLIAM'S MANOR was granted to William sir-named of Tacolneston, the place of his birth and education, from whose Christian name the manor took its name. In 1249 it was held at a whole knight's fee; but Hugh de Tacolneston was not yet knighted. In 1285 sir William de Tacolneston (though he is often called sir William Fitz-Eustace) had view of frank-pledge of all his tenants, and assize of bread and ale. In 1381 John de Tacolneston was lord; the famous John Tacesphalus (we believe) was born here, and was elected prior of the carmelites, or white friars, in Norwich, in 1404; of whom Pits speaks, p. 607. He was D. D. a man of great learning, remarkable piety, and a good orator; a great preacher against the disciples of Wickliff, Hus, and the Lollards; he published two books, by way of comment, on the Revelations; a collection of sermons for the saints days, and many others; and to make them of the greater authority and esteem, he went to pope Martin V. to Rome, to obtain his approbation and public recommendation, which he had just obtained when he died, and was buried there; and it is probable the manor fell by escheat to the lord of Forncet manor, of which it was held, and continued with it till about 1570, when the earl of Arundel was returned lord of William's

liam's manor, in Tacolneston, and chief lord of the commons there, in right of the earl's manor, which belonged to Forncet manor; but it was sold by the earl to the Cleres, and by them to the Brownes. In 1623 Edmund and Robert Browne, son and heir apparent of Edmund, articulated with Thomas Knyvet, esq. and for 1900*l.* sold him Tacolneston manor, and the manor of William's, with the advowson and the rents of assize there, above 11*l.* per ann. six capons, two hens, and five eggs: but it did not take place; for William's manor descended to John Browne, who joined and sold Tacolneston manor as aforesaid to James Brockden, but kept this to himself. In 1657 the said John Browne, the elder, gent. was lord; and in 1664 John Browne, his eldest son and heir, kept his first court, in which it was found, that the custom of the manor is to the eldest son; it hath continued ever since in the Brownes, and at the death of Richard Browne it descended to his son, the Rev. John Browne, late rector of Ashwelthorpe. The Rev. Charles Browne is the present lord, and resides here.

EARL'S MANOR was held as aforesaid by Simon Fitz-Richard; and in 1199 by Richard Fitz-Walter. In 1306 Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, and marshal of England, held it jointly with Alice, his wife, of Robert Fitz-Walter, by the service of two parts of a fee; and from that time to this it hath passed as Forncet manor.

The church is dedicated to All Saints; when Norwich Domesday-book was wrote Hugh de D'ovedale was patron; the rector then had no house, but two barns, and twenty-three acres of glebe, though now there is a handsome house, barn, and outhouses, adjoining to the north side of the church-yard, and about thirty acres of glebe; it was first valued at ten,

and after at twelve marks, and the town paid 2l. 10s. clear to every tenth. The prior of Buckenham's temporals were taxed at 6d. and those of the monks of Thetford at 2s. ob. The rectory stands undischarged in the king's books at 12l. pays first-fruits, and 1l. 4s. yearly tenths. There were two guilds here. The church was rebuilt about 1503; for there were about that time many legacies given to the foundation of the church of Tacolneston. The tower is square, and hath five bells in it; the nave and chancel are thatched, the south aisle is leaded, and the south porch tiled.

Ricardus Browne de Sparkes in hac parochia gen. hic jacet sepultus, qui mortem obiit 21 die Augusti, A. D. 1678, ætat. suæ 45.

Browne impaling Knevet. *Pietate et Charitate.—Hic jacet corpus Murielis, nuper uxoris Johannis Browne, apud Sparkes, generosi, quæ fuit una filiarum Johannis Knevet, generosi, et vitam hanc cum morte commutavit 16 die Martij, 1671.*

Hic jacet corpus Johannis Browne, apud Sparkes, generosi, qui vitam hanc migravit 29 die Sept. A. D. 1666.

The Brownes are an ancient family, having been in this parish ever since the time of Henry VI. and many of them lie buried here. Also some of the Knipes.

In the east window, quarterly, 1. Barry, or Berry; 2. lost; 3. Paston; 4. Mautby. In a north window, Bohun.

In 1603 the rector returned answer that there were 125 communicants in this parish.

In 1660 Robert Baldock, esq. serjeant at law, presented, who in 1671, by the name of sir Robert Baldock, knt. gave it to John Baldock, whose wife lies buried here, Oct. 11, 1692; and in 1681 Richard Kerrington had it, but was deprived for not taking the oath to William III.

In 1764 the Rev. Thomas Warren was presented to this rectory by Dame Susannah Ward, *p. h. v.* Mr. Warren is now patron, and incumbent of this church.

The advowson was sold from the manor by sir Henry Clere, and was afterwards purchased by sir Robert Baldock, who descended from an ancient family of that name in this county; for Richard Baldock, of Necton, owned a good estate there in 1263. In 1683 the said Robert was appointed king's serjeant by patent, and being an active man in the time of James II. he was one of the king's council at the trial of the seven bishops in 1688, in which cause shewing much zeal, he was the same year made one of the justices of the King's Bench, in the room of sir John Powell, knt. who was turned out for maintaining that the bishop's petition to the king could not be a libel, because it was founded upon the king's incapacity to dispense laws, which was very true: he had two wives; first, Mary Bacon; second, the relict of sir William Hewet, of Breccles: by the first he had two children; Henry, his only son, who died without issue soon after his father, and left his only sister, Mary, then wife of George Townshend, of Little Wrotham, esq. his sole heiress, whose only surviving son was the late rector. Sir Robert Baldock aforesaid built a house opposite to the south part of

the church-yard, which is commonly called Tacolneston-hall, in which he dwelt, but now being decayed, great part of it is pulled down. This estate, with the advowson, was sold some years since to Mr. Ferrer, who left it to his son, William Ferrer, gent. and his sister carried the patronage to her husband, Bernard Hyde, gent. of Seven-Oaks, in Kent.

In 1778 the most noble Charles duke of Norfolk, as lord of the manor of Forncet, Knipe Gobbet, esq. as lord of the manor of Tacolneston, otherwise Dovedale, the Rev. Charles Browne, as lord of William's manor, the Rev. Thomas Warren, as patron and rector, and several other proprietors of lands in this parish, obtained an act of parliament for dividing and inclosing the commons and waste lands belonging thereto, which is now laid out in convenient portions, and new roads made—much to the benefit of the country.

Ten acres of land is allotted for the benefit of the poor residing in the parish, and not receiving alms; this is vested in the hands of the manor lords, rector, churchwardens, and overseers, for that purpose.

TASBURGH, or TASEBURGH. The name of this town shews its original to have been the burgh, or fortification, on the river Taus, or Tese; and accordingly Dr. Gale, in his commentary on Antoninus's Itinerary, tells us, this river was called *Tau*, and that the station *ad Taum*, mentioned in the Pentingerian tables, was here*; and indeed the parish church stands in the fortification, the dimensions of which are still very visible; and an advantageous situation it was, to guard the pass of the river, leading
to

* He tells us of coins found here with IC. DVRO. T.

to Caſtor, being on the very ſummit of a high hill, which ſurveyſ the adjacent country, and hangs over the river, which turned eaſtward by it, and made a commodious ſinus, or bay, for ſuch veſſels as came up hither; and though for many years this ſtream hath declined through neglect, it would be an eaſy matter to make it navigable for lighters and ſuch ſort of veſſels up to this village, which would be an advantageous thing to all the neighbouring country; this good project hath been twice attempted, and as often miſcarried, rather through want of conduct and a proper application, than ability of the undertakers.

The entrenchment, or burgh, here, is ſquare, and contains about twenty-four acres; it ſeems to be that encampment of the Romans which, by the chorographical table publiſhed by Mark Velfer, is called *Ad Taum*. This place hath given name to the ancient family of the Taſburghs, who being lords of the town, had anciently their ſeat there; but after their removal hence had their chief ſeat (and that a very pleaſant one) juſt out of the county, on the bank of the river Waveney, which parts this county from Suffolk, not far from the abbey of Fælix-Town, commonly called Flixton, in Suffolk; the houſe is a grand ancient building, and fronts the road from Bungay to Harleſton,

The church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, who hath her gild here; the ſteeple was built in 1385, is round, and hath four bells in it; there is a north porch; the nave is leaded, and the chancel tiled.

In 1694 the rector had licence to ſell the lead off the chancel, and cover it with tiles.

On an altar-tomb on the south side of the church, Bludworth impaling Baxter, and this on a brass plate at the top:—*Elizabetha, filia et heres Georgij Bludworth, gen. et uxor Thomæ Baxter, gen. per quem habuit duos filios et tres filias, obiit 8 die Octobris, anno Dom. 1587, ætatis suæ xxxviij.*—On the side of the stone,—*Elizabethæ, uxor Thomæ Baxter.*

On a brass, in the middle of the church, Burman impaling Drury;—*Dorothy, late wife of John Burman, doctor of law, and daughter of Anthony Drury, of Besthorpe, esq. she died July 14, 1642.*

Under the screen, between the church and chancel, on a flat stone, Tirrel impales Burman,—*Elizabeth, late wife of James Tirrel, of the Inner Temple, esq. one of the daughters of John Burman, doctor of the civil law; she died in child-bed, April 4, 1638; ætat. 21.*

On a tomb against the south chancel wall,—*Thomas Baxter, patronus hujus ecclesiæ, obiit 3 Dec. anno Dom. 1611, æt. suæ 75.*—(He built Ranthorpe-hall.) It hath three shields: 1. Baxter; 2. Baxter and Tal-mach; 3. Drake.

On the north side is a monument for Newce, of Ranthorpe-hall; Newce impaling Seabright, and Newce impales Leventhorpe;—*Thomas Newce, gent. and Margaret, his wife, daughter of John Shrawberry, of St. Edmund's Bury. He died Feb. 4, 1629, aged 68. She Nov. 24, 1632, aged 69.*

Nicholas Bohun, of Fressingfield, esq. was buried here in 1572.

In 1274 Roger de Tasburgh, lord of Uphall manor, sold the advowson from the manor, to sir Robert
de

de Tatehale, lord of Buckenham-castle; and in 1603 the rector returned answer that he had 120 communicants, and that Thomas Baxter, esq. was patron.

In 1757 the Rev. Thomas Warren was presented to this rectory by Thomas Beevor, esq. of Hethel, in right of Mrs. Beevor, who was daughter and heiress of the late Miles Branthwayte, esq.

When Norwich Doomfday-book was wrote the prior of Broomholme was patron, and the rector had a house and ten acres of glebe; it was valued at twelve, and after at fourteen marks. The prior of Thetford monks had revenues here of the gift of William Bigot, viz. temporals taxed at 40s. 2d. a year. and spirituals, viz. the tithes of his demesnes, and divers other lands held of him, valued to the tenths at 40s. a year, and afterwards compounded for at 16s. 8d. a year, reduced afterwards to 13s. a year, which in 1612 was paid to the lord of Aflacton priory manor, in right of Thetford priory. It now stands in the king's books undischarged, and therefore is not capable of augmentation.—Sl. Tasburgh rect. 16s. yearly tenths.—This town paid 3l. to every tenth, when the taxes were raised by tenths and fifteenths.

The MANOR of UPHALL, or BOYLAND'S, in Tasburgh, was the capital manor, and belonged to bishop Osborn in the time of the Confessor, and was held by Tarolf, a free-man of bishop Stigand, at the Conqueror's survey, and then it extended into Forncet; at the first survey it was worth 20s. per annum, and 30s. at the last. All Tasebure was a mile and quarter long, and seven furlongs broad, and paid 9d.

gd. gelt. The successors of this Tarolf assumed the name of Taseburgh about 1239.

In 1247 Ralph de Taseburgh was lord, and had *infangenthef*, or liberty to try all theft committed by his tenants, in his own court baron and leet here, and to execute them, and take their forfeited goods. In 1280 his son, Roger, had sold it to sir Richard de Boyland, who in 1284 had the leet, paying 6d. yearly to the king, by the bailiff of the hundred; assize of bread and ale, a ducking stool, pillory, and common gallows; he lived here, and had his chapel of St. Michael* adjoining to his house. It was soon afterwards sold to Richard de Uphall, of Tasburgh, from whom it was called Uphall manor. In 1298 he sold it to Henry De-la-Salle, when it contained ten messuages, one hundred and forty acres of land, twenty-four of meadow, ten of pasture, eight of wood, two of marsh, and 6l. 2s. 3d. ob. rent, in Tasburgh, Newton-Flotman, Saxlingham, Wadon, and Hempnall. It afterwards came to Ralph de Bumpstead, citizen of Norwich.

A moiety of this manor in 1539 was sold by Thomas Wiseman to Charles duke of Suffolk, who in 1542 sold it to sir Richard Gresham, who the year before had purchased the other moiety of John Branch, and others, who bought it of Edward Taseburgh; and before 1570 it was sold to William Fernley, or Farlowe, of Creeting, in Suffolk, and by him to sir Thomas Gaudy, of Claxton, who died seised, and left it to Henry Gaudy, esq. his son, who sold it

* This was a free chapel belonging to the manor-house, and was for the sole use of the family; we do not find it was ever endowed, but the serving priest was supported by the lords, to pray for them, their family, and ancestors; this continued to the dissolution, but being the sole property of the lord, the statute hath nothing to do with it.

it according to an agreement made before his father's death, with the manor of Hunt's, in Tasburgh, to Gascoign Weld, who left it to Joseph Weld, esq.* his son, serjeant at law, whose two daughters, Elizabeth, and Mary, inherited; Elizabeth, married Richard Rutter, of Kingsley, in Cheshire; and Mary, William Starkey, clerk, whose daughter, Mary, inherited the whole, and carried it to her husband, John Jermy, of Bayfield, in Norfolk, esq. whose only son and heir, William Jermy, esq. was since lord.

HUNT'S MANOR belonged at the Confessor's survey to Almar, who held it of bishop Stigand, and at the Conqueror's Roger de Ebrois held it of William de Schoies, and Richard de Hadesco held it about the time of king John of the honor of Clare, at the eighth part of a fee; and in 1235 John Wythe, and Roger de Broome, had it. In 1266 Henry III. granted liberty of free-warren to Thomas Rosceline, then lord, by purchase from Richard le Chamberlain, of Haddiscoe; and in 1270 the said Thomas sold it to Roger de Hales. In 1289 William de Narford had it; and in 1315 it belonged to Dunmow priory, in Essex, at the dissolution of which it came to the crown, and being granted from it, in the 12th of queen Elizabeth it belonged to sir Thomas Gresham, knt. lord mayor of London, and by him was joined to the manor of Uphall, with which it now remains

* About 1700 Joseph Weld, esq. serjeant at law, brought his action against Mr. Carter, an attorney at Norwich, then lord of Ranthorpe-hall, for cutting down trees on the common of Tasburgh; it went for the plaintiff, it being proved by the evidences and court-rolls, that in the time of queen Elizabeth the lords of Tasburgh granted licence to the lord of Ranthorpe-hall to plant trees, and to make a causeway through the common to go to the church, and that all the drifts, fishing, and other royalties, belonged to the lord of Tasburgh.

remains. The stile of the court now is, Taseburgh-Uphall, Boyland's, and Hunt's.

The honor of Richmond extends hither, two parcels belonged to Alan, lord of that honor; the one was valued with his manor of Costessey, and the other belonged to the manor of Swaffham; and in 1632 Matthew Weld, gent. was obliged by process to pay 2l. 10s. to the king as his forfeiture for not pay his Majesty an annual rent of 2d. ob. called war-pound rent*, due to his honor of Richmond.

There was a serjeanty held under Roger Bigot at the survey, by Berard and Asceline and afterwards by the earl Marshal, who held it of Richmond honor.

RANTHORPE-HALL MANOR was held of Roger de Ramis by William, at the survey, and after him by Jeffrey de Raineſthorp, or Ranthorp, at one fee, in 1156; and it is now divided, and in that part in Taseburgh he was succeeded by John de Raineſthorp, and he by William de Raines, or Reymes; it continued in this family a long time. In 1307 John de Reymes, or Raineſthorp, had it; and afterwards, in 1342, it belonged to William de Rhees. In 1550 Ann Chapman held it of Forncet at half a fee; and in 1579 Dudley Chapman sold it to sir Thomas Cornwallis, knt. Thomas Baxter had it about 1600; he built the house, called Ranthorpe-hall, in the windows of which are the following arms: Howard duke of Norfolk, quartering Brotherton, Warren, and Mowbray; Robert

* War-pound, "beware of your pound rent," the forfeiture being one pound for every penny left unpaid. *E. Rot. Pen. P. L. N. inter Rot. Honoris Richmond, in Norff. ex parte Stratton-Longa in Depwade hund curia ibm' 1632.*

Robert† impaling Kerdeslon, &c. Appleyard and Thornbury, Baxter impaling Drake, quarterly; Baxter and Bludworth; Bludworth and Crosse, quarterly; Baxter and Bludworth quartered, impaled with Bowyer, &c. Baxter and Sherman; Ditto and Flint,

Thomas Baxter, esq. sold it to Thomas Newce, esq. of Hodsdon, in Hertfordshire, Stephen Bowyer, and Thomas Heyward, esqrs. being trustees; at his death it went to his only daughter, married to Morgan Jenkyn, whose only son, Newce Jenkyn, sold it to Mr. Richard Carter, sen. attorney at law, in Norwich, and his son, Richard, had it, whose widow sold it.

THARSTON. This village is called by various names in old evidences, as Sterstuna, or Steres-Town*, Therston, Testun, Thurston, and Tharston, and was in divers parts at the Conquest, several of them belonging to the manor of Forncet, of which the capital manor was always held at one fee. Uluric held it of bishop Stigand at the Confessor's survey, and Robert de Vallibus, Vals, or Vaux, of Roger Bigot at the Conqueror's. The church had forty acres of glebe, valued at 3s. per ann. the manor was worth 5l. 6s. and the town was a league and an half long, and half a league broad, and paid 15d. ob. to the gelt. This was afterwards called Narford's, or Tharston-hall manor.

Another

† In 1586 sir Edward Stafford, of Grafton, ambassador in France in 1586, married Mrs. Chapman, of Kanthorpe-hall, by whom he had a son, William; and she was relict of Robert when he married her.

* From the steers, or young bullocks, it being probably appropriated for a place to breed and bring up young cattle in, in the Saxon times.

Another part belonged to Robert Fitz-Corburi, which was worth 10s. per ann. in rents at the first, and 20s. at the last survey; this constituted the

Manor of THARSTON, or ST. OMÉR'S MANOR, taking both its names from the lords of it; in 1236 Richard de Tharston was lord, and held it at a quarter of a fee of Robert de Shelton, of whom he purchased it, and Shelton held it of Robert de Tatchale, lord of Buckenham-castle, from which it had been formerly sold by the Albanys.

In 1317 Richard de Tharston settled it on Ralph de St. Omer, and it soon after divided into two parts*; but before 1401 St. Omer's part was joined in William Rees, esq. who was lord of this, and

NARFORD'S, LOVENEY'S, or THARSTON-HALL MANOR, as it is now called, which continued in the Vaux's a long time; in 1275 John de Vaux had a charter for free-warren here, and in 1285 he had a leet held once a year, but the king's bailiff of the hundred was to be present, or the lord could not hold it, unless he agreed with him yearly, which was afterwards done constantly, till it was bought in perpetuity; and then the lord had view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, and waif.

In 1288, upon the partition made between the two daughters and co-heiresses of John de Vaux,
Maud

* In 1303 John Jermy purchased of Roger de Hales three messuages, 120 acres of land, four of meadow, eight of pasture, fifteen of wood, and 20s. rent in Tharston, Wacton, and Forncet; this was held in the time of Henry III. by the serjeanty of finding one slinger, with a sling to cast stones with in the king's army. Jermy's manor continued in that family, and was some time afterwards joined with the other manor.

Maud, married to William de Roos, and Petronel, to William de Narford, who had this manor, and that of Shottesham, in Henstead, and the moieties of Holt and Cley, the whole advowson of Holt, with divers knights fees in Thorpe, Winch, Beechamwell, Thurneton, Mourningthorpe, &c. and it continued in the Narfords.

Sir Thomas Roos, of Hamlake, *knt.* who descended from Maud, the other daughter and co-heiress of Vaux, had it; and in 1394 Margery de Narford released and conveyed all right in it to William Roos, or Rees, *esq.* and his heirs, who held it in 1403 of Thomas Mowbray's manor of Fornet at one fee. In 1410 this William Rees, *esq.* by will, gave his two manors in Tharston, the one called Narford's, and the other St. Omer's, to be sold by his executors, with his manors of Caxton and Wroting, in Cambridgeshire, to found a chantry in the college of St. Mary in the Fields, in Norwich, and to pay sir Thomas, the anchorite, near that college, 2s. a week for life; and soon after it was sold to William Loveney, and afterwards purchased by sir Robert Clere, *knt.* who held it in 1432, and it passed in that family with Kewick.

In 1549 sir John Clere was lord, and the manors were valued at 30*l.* but he manumitted much, and died August 21, 1557, leaving sir Edward, his son and heir. He made a long lease of the demesnes to John Woolmer, and settled the manor. He left it to sir Edward Clere, of Ormesby, his son and heir; who sold it to John Smith, *esq.* of Arminghall, and he in 1617 to sir Thomas Knyvet, of Ashwelthorpe, *knt.* when there were 319 acres, three roods and an half of copyhold, which paid 10*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* quit-rents, besides six capons, two hens, three geese, ten eggs, two bushels of oats, seven days work

work and an half in harvest; seven days work in winter, half a day's work in hay-seele, and half a day's work in weeding, which were even now paid in kind. The freehold rents of antient tenure were 6l. 2s. 4d. per ann. twelve capons, five hens, one comb of wheat, half a pound of pepper, and one July-flower. The freehold rents of the new purchases, or manumissions, were 2l. 7s. 5d. one capon, and one red rose. The rents of 159 acres of demesnes granted off free, 6l. 17s. ob. and one capon. The profits of the court one year with another 8l. 10s. The lord hath had a warren of coneyes at Holme-hill, and hath lett Holme chapel to farm. It then paid 3d. per ann. to Forncet, and 1s. to Stratton manors.

In 1626 Thomas Knevet, of Ashwelthorpe, esq. sold it to Robert Wood, esq. of Bracon-Ash, and it hath passed ever since in that family.

WELHOLME'S, OR WELHAM'S MANOR, laid in Stratton St. Michael, and this town. Before the Welholmes removed to their new made manor-house at Stratton, they dwelt in the old scite of their manor by Holm-hill, in this parish, to which belonged an ancient free chapel dedicated to St. Giles, called Holme, or Welholme's chapel, the scite of which now belongs to the manor of Tharston; and on account of this it is that we often meet with the churches of Tharston mentioned, but the manor united to Stratton-hall.

The advowson of the rectory of the church of St. Mary the Virgin, at Tharston, was given in the time of king Stephen to the priory of Pentney, in Freebridge-Lynn, by Robert de Vaux, founder of that house, to which it was appropriated before 1273; it was first valued at fifteen, afterwards at eighteen marks,

marks, and had a house and forty acres of glebe. The vicarage is valued in the king's books by the name of Thurston, at 5l. 1s. 8d. and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 45l. it is discharged of first-fruits and tenths, and is capable of augmentation; and in 1571 the queen's receiver-general paid to the vicar, out of the impropriate tithes, a yearly pension of 3l. 6s. 8d. There was a guild held in honor of the Blessed Virgin, and the following religious persons had temporalities, valued as follow: the prior of Thetford monks at 2s. the abbot of Creak 6d. the prior of Buckenham 2s. the prior of Norwich 4s. 6d. and it paid clear to every tenth 4l. 12s.

The church hath a square steeple and four bells, the nave is leaded, the chancel and north porch are tiled.

There are two monuments of black marble inscribed to—*Robert Wood, esq. son and heir to sir Robert Wood, of Aylsham, knt. who died May 23, 1623. Also Anne Wood, wife to the said Robert, daughter and one of the co-heiresses of Robert Woolmer, esq. she died at her house at Bracon-Ash, Jan. 7, 1646. The said Robert and Anne had issue three sons and two daughters, sir Robert, their eldest son, married Elizabeth, the third daughter of sir Thomas Richardson, knt. late chief-justice of the King's-Bench.*

John Woolmer, esq. some time clerk of the assizes for this circuit, and Alice, his wife; he died in this town Dec. 2, 1598, and Alice, his wife, died at Croxton, near Thetford, Dec. 9, 1610.

The vicars of Tharston were presented by the priors of Pentney till 1500, when the prior granted

the next turn to Thomas Codde, Alderman of Norwich.

The impropriate rectory, and advowson of the vicarage, vested in the crown at the dissolution, and the king lett the impropriation to farm at 6l. 6s. 8d. reserved rent, and presented to the vicarage one Robert Ringer, who in 1554 was deprived by queen Mary for not complying with the Romish religion, which she endeavoured to establish, and she gave it to Robert Vassour; and in 1557, he being outed, Thomas Underwood, alias Babington, took it by lapse.

The impropriation and advowson of the vicarage was settled in 1601 by the crown on the bishopric of Ely, the bishops of which see have all along, and do now enjoy them.

In 1603 the vicar returned 136 communicants in this parish.

The Rev. Mr. Thurlow, father of the present lord high chancellor of England, was vicar of Tharston; and in 1762 the Rev. John Salmon had it. In 1775 the lord bishop of Ely presented the present vicar, Thomas Howes, of Mourningthorpe.

TIBBENHAM, or TIBENHAM. The church here is dedicated to All Saints, and hath a square tower and five large bells; the south porch, south aisle, nave, and chancel, are all leaded; the vicarage-house joins to the west part of the church-yard: there are the emblems of the four evangelists at each corner of the tower, carved in stone, and four marbles in the chancel:

1. Ro-

1. *Robertus Herne, generosus, ob. Mar. 2, A. D. 1685. Anna Herne, ob. 20 Mar. A. D. 1729, æt. 81.*
 —2. *Richard Herne, gent. 1668.*—3. *Herne's arms and crest. Robertus Herne, armiger, filius Roberti Herne, generosi, ob. 12 die Aug. A. D. 1720, æt. 66.*
 —4. *Gooch impaling Herne. Here lieth Sarah Gooch, the wife of Clement Gooch, late of Earsham, in the county of Norfolk, esq. and daughter of Robert Herne, of this parish, gent. Dec. 1, 1729, æt. 76. To the memory of so good a parent, Ann, the wife of John Buxton, of Channonz-Holl, esq. her only surviving child, by the said Clement Gooch, consecrates this monument.*

There are several brasses lost in the nave and south aisle. At the west end of the nave is a stone for—*Samuel Vernon, gent. March 2, 1686, æt. 49.*

On an old brass in St. Nicholas's chapel, at the east end of the south aisle——*Orate pro animabus Roberti Buxton, Christiane, et Agnetis, uxorum ejus, qui quidem Robertus obiit anno Dni. MCCCXCXVIII, quorum animabus propicietur Deus*.*

Buxton quartering two bucks couchant, impaling Warner—*For John Buxton, gent, son of Robert Buxton, obiit April 5, 1572.*

There is cut on the Buxton's feat in the church, which was built by these two, the paternal coat of Buxton, quartering or. two bucks lodged, gules, and is the rebus for the name of Buxton, as we have seen for the name of the town of Buxton, in South Erpingham, whence this family took their surname; and indeed Buxton signifies the bucks town;

M 2

lodge-

lodgement, or habitation—impaled with Warner; also Buxton impaled with Herne, and Buxton impaling Pert.

Here is another brass plate for the aforesaid Johannes de Buxton, and one with Buxton's arms impaling Pert—*For Johannes Buxton, de Channonz, apud Tybenham, armiger, obiit 29 die mensis Aprilis, anno Dni. 1660, ætatis suæ 51, et Margareta, uxor, filia Guilielmi Pert, of Montnessiny, comitatu Essex, armig. obiit 11 die mensis Maij, anno Dni. 1687, æt. suæ curren. 76.*

There is a stone—*For Benjamin, third son of William Buxton, who died April 16, 1681.* And another head-stone by the chancel door—*For Mary, wife of Francis Buxton, gent. and Mary, his wife, who died Jan. 29, 1723, æt. 22; and Hannah, their daughter.*

Thomas Talbot, armiger, juris consultus, justiciarius, vir Deo devotus, omnibus bonis charus, amicus fidiſſimus, natalibus virtutibus, dignitatibus inclytus, mortem patiendo corporalem victor abibat in vitam eternam, per Dominum nostrum, Jesum Christum, cui omnis laus, gloria, honor, &c. in secula seculorum. Amen.

Here was a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, standing by itself in the church-yard, at the east end of the chancel, the ruins of which may still be seen. William Lynster, *alias* Bocher, in 1493, was buried in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Tibbenham; he gave a messuage and lands to the parish church of All Saints here, ordering the churchwardens to apply the neat profit to repair and adorn the church for ever; he gave also nine acres of freehold lying at Mill-hill and Rowe-Bushes, for the constables to receive the rent, and with the neat

neat yearly profit thereof to pay the king's fifteenths for the poorer sort of people, and when there are no fifteenths, then the churchwardens are to receive it, and repair and beautify the church with it.

There were three guilds here, the brethren and sisters of which had one common guild-hall, since turn'd into a school-house; these guilds had divers lands here, which at their dissolution were seized by the crown, where they continued till 1609, and then James I. granted them to John Eldred, esq. and Mrs. Joan Verdon, and their heirs. The furniture of the guild-hall remained till 1650, when the hall was ruined; for then the officers sold 30l. of pewter, 92l. of lead, four spits that weighed 169 lb. a metal pot that weighed 44 lb. two pots of brass of 89 lb. and a brass pan of 9 lb.—A plain proof of the *jolly doings* at these guilds! But as the poor of the parish always were partakers with them, we much question whether their revenues were not better spent then, than they have been since they were rapaciously seized from the parishes to which they of right belonged.

In 1652 the town lands to beautify and repair the church were lett at above 28l. per ann.

In 1506 John Blomefield, of Norwich, gent. bequeathed to the paving of St. Nicholas's chapel, in Tibbenham church, a thousand paving tiles, or money to the value.

The vicars of Tibbenham were presented by the priors of Horsham St. Faith; or the king, when he seized that priory into his hands, as being an alien.

In 1393 the advowson of Tibbenham was alienated by sir Miles Stapleton, and others, to Norton-Subcross chantry; but they having no other right in it, only a grant from the king, as part of the possessions of an alien priory, when that was made a denizen, the grant ceased.

In 1554, the vicar being deprived, and a pension assigned him, sir Richard Southwell, knt. by lease from the crown of the impropriation and advowson of the vicarage, gave it to Peter Walker*.

They were afterwards granted by queen Elizabeth, in exchange, to the bishopric of Ely; and ever since the bishop of Ely hath been patron of the vicarage, and leases out the impropriation.

In 1603 the rector returned 210 communicants here, that the bishop of Ely was patron of the vicarage, and had the impropriate rectory, which had formerly been endowed with part of the vicarage, viz. the tithe hay.

In 1227 it was a rectory, for Richard le Chaum then granted two parts of the advowson to Augustine, prior of St. Faith, at Horsham, who had the other third part before in right of their lands here; and the church was appropriated and confirmed to them by the bishop of Norwich, according to an agreement made in the time of his predecessor, saving a sufficient maintenance to the vicar; and in 1428 the prior was taxed for his spiritualities at 23 marks, and his temporals paid 12d. to each tenth. At the dissolution their temporals as well as spiri-

* *Dna. Regina habet presentationem vicarie de Tibenham, rectoria est in manu Rici Southwell, militis, pro termino annorum futurorum, pro redditu 8l. 15s. 6d.*

spirituals vested in the crown, and in 1610 were granted by James I. to George Salter, and John Williams, by the name of the revenues and lands late of St. Faith's priory, viz. the tenement called the priory-house, and yard, and thirty-two acres of land and a tenement, called Annables; and the tithe-wood and hay of the rectory of Tibbenham aforesaid, now in the tenure of Nicholas Herne, esq. of the yearly value of 44s.

As the impropriation consists of all the great, so doth the vicarage of the small tithes, except the tithe-wood and hay aforesaid. It now stands in the king's books at 7l. 6s. 8d.

When Doomsday-book was made, the vicar had a house, and half an acre of land, and the vicarage was valued at five, and afterwards at six marks, but was not taxed; and the village paid 4l. 15s. 11d. clear to every tenth. The prior of Westacre was taxed at 6l. 13s. 5d. for his temporals here. The prior of Castle-Acre at half a mark for his spirituals, which were two parts out of three of the tithes of the demesne lands of the manors of Robert de Bosevile here, which the said Robert confirmed to the monastery, as his ancestors had formerly granted them. The portion of the monastery of Sees, in Mendham, was 6s. The portion of the prior of St. Olave in spirituals (being taxed at half a mark) was for two parts of the tithes of their demesnes here, valued at two marks: and the portion of the abbot of St. Bennet in the Holme was one mark, and was for two parts of the tithes of his demesnes here. The prior of Buckenham had temporals also in this parish, taxed at 25s. And it is said, there was a chapel at Tibbenham Old-Hall, which belonged to, and was served by, the canons of that

house; but we have not met with any certain account of it.

In 1759 the Rev. Thomas Kerrich was presented to the vicarage of Tibbenham by the lord bishop of Ely.

TIBBENHAM-HALL, *alias* ORREBY'S, TATESHALL'S, &c. *cum* CARLETON*, &c. (for it hath gone by the several names of its owners) is the capital manor, and belonged to Alric, a thane of king Edward the Confessor, and had then three carucates of land belonging to it, two in demesne, and one in the tenants hands, who had liberty to sell their lands, if they first offered them for sale to their lord, and he refused them. The king and earl had then the leet, and all superior jurisdiction; and at the Conqueror's survey it was owned by Eudo, son of Spiruwin, the founder of the Tatehall family, in which it continued till it was joined to Buckenham-castle, and passed exactly as that castle did through the Tatehalls, Orrerys, Cliftons, Knevets, &c. till it was sold by the Harveys to Mr. Shaw, of Besthorpe, whose daughter and heiress married to lord Byron, who now owned it.

In 1257 sir Robert de Tatehall had a charter for free-warren in this manor from Henry III. which was afterwards confirmed to Constantine de Clifton, his heir, by Richard II. in 1275, assize of bread and ale over all his tenants in Tibbenham and Carleton was allowed him by Edward I. In 1285 all these privileges were allowed in *Eire*, with waif, and a tumbrel.

In

* This manor extends into Carleton-Rode.

In 1272 this manor was held *in capite* of the king by barony.

In 1649 sir Philip Knevet, baronet, had it valued, and the free quit-rents, &c. were 20l. scite of the hall, &c. 93l. 15s. per annum. The hall stands a quarter of a mile north-west of the church.

ABBOT'S MANOR was given before the conquest by Lefwald, a Saxon, to the abbey of St. Bennet at the Holme; and at the conquest was worth 25s. a year. In 1326 the rents of assize were 22s. 4d. ob. a year; and there was a manor-house, and 136 acres of arable land worth 3d. an acre; two acres of meadow worth 2s. and twenty acres of wood; for all which temporals the abbot was taxed in 1428 at 4l. 7s. 4d. ob. The whole revenues went with the abbey of Holme to the bishop of Norwich, whose lessee now hath it.

DAGWORTH'S MANOR was part of the abbot's manor granted to Osbert de Dagworth, who recovered it in the king's court against the abbot, and then gave it to the monastery of St. Olave's, at Herringfleet, in Suffolk, and the prior of that house paid 7s. 1d. tax for it in 1428. At the dissolution this manor of Tibbenham was given by Henry VIII. to Henry Jerningham, and it afterwards came to the Abergavennys.

The manor of TIBBENHAM, HASTINGS, or LONG-ROWE, belonged to the abbot of Bury St. Edmund's, and was held of him by Richard, being raised from 40 to 60s. value. At the Conqueror's survey the village was a league and an half long, and one league broad, and paid 18d. gelt, or tax, and passed as Hastings's manor, in Giffing, held of the abbot of Bury, by the service of half a fee, and 2s. 7d. per ann.
rent

rent for castle-guard to Norwich castle. In 1374 John Hastings, earl of Pembroke, died seised of Tibbenham-Rowes, and Winfarthing, of which manor it was held, and constantly attended it for some time. In 1401 sir William Beauchamp had it; and in 1445 Joan, widow of sir William Beauchamp, knt. lord of Abergavenny, died seised thereof, having held it in dower of the inheritance of Elizabeth, her grand-daughter, wife of sir Edward Nevile, knt. lord Abergavenny, as parcel of the inheritance of Hastings earl of Pembroke. In 1475 Edward Nevile, lord Abergavenny, died seised; and in 1570 it was in the hands of the lord Abergavenny.

CHANNONS, or CHANEUX'S MANOR, was so called from the Chauns, or Chains, the ancient lords thereof. In the Conqueror's time it was parcel of Forncet manor, and belonged to Roger Bigot. In 1198 it was Adam Fitz-Robert's, afterwards the Fitz-Walters, of whom Henry de Croftwick held it at one fee. In 1200 Ralph de Chaum, Cham, or Caam, held it at one fee. In 1227 Richard le Chaum sold two parts of the advowson. In 1303 William de Morbun, and John le Wales, or Willis, had the manor late Thomas de Chauns, which then contained 30 messuages, four carucates of land, two acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 80 acres of wood, a wind-mill, and 60s. per annum rent in Tibbenham, Aflacton, Moulton, and the towns adjacent. After this it came into the Bacons; and in 1401 John Bacon, of Baconsthorpe, had the united manors of Hackford, Chaun's, or Chaneux, and Westhall, in Tibbenham, with view of frank-pledge, &c. belonging to them. It descended to the coheiresses of Thomas Bacon, and the last of that family, Ann, married to Robert Garnish, of Kenton, in Suffolk; and Elizabeth, to sir John Glemham, knt. who inherited
the

the whole by release from Ann and Robert Garnish. In 1537 sir John Glemham, knt. died seised, and left Christopher his son and heir; he died October 18, 1549, and left them all to Thomas Glemham, esq. his son and heir, who was also cousin and heir to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk. After this we find Christiana Glemham had these manors of Chanons, Westhall, Hackford, and Seckford, in Tibbenham, and paid for ward to Norwich-castle every thirty weeks 2s. 4d. and before the year 1567 we find them in the hands of Robert Buxton, gent. who died seised of them, and North or Great Glemham manor, in Suffolk, June 5, 1621, leaving Robert his son and heir: this Robert was grandson to Robert Buxton, who was buried in the church of Tibbenham in 1528. In 1655 John Buxton, esq. of Chanons, was lord, and was buried here in 1660, leaving by Margaret Pert, his wife, one of the heiresses of Thomas Conyers, of East Barnet, in Hertfordshire, esq. four sons and two daughters.

Robert Buxton, of Chanons, the eldest son, married Hannah, daughter of Robert Wilton, esq. of Topcroft and Wilby, and was buried at Tibbenham; John Buxton, his eldest son, dying unmarried, at Orleans, in France, where he was buried,

Robert Buxton, his second son, succeeded him, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Leonard Gooch, esq. of Earsham; he was buried at Rushford in 1691; and Elizabeth Buxton was buried by him in 1730. His brother, Charles; was A. B. and fellow of Clarehall, in Cambridge, who died in 1682, and was buried in St. Edward's church there, being 22 years old. Margaret, his sister, married Henry Keddington, of Hockham; and Hannah, her sister, was then unmarried.

John

John Buxton, son of Robert Buxton, and Elizabeth Gooch, succeeded, and was buried at Rushworth in 1731, leaving these manors to Ann, his wife, for life, and Robert Buxton, esq. his son, her heir. John Buxton, esq. of Shadwell-Lodge, in Rushworth, is now lord.

In 1570 Knevet and Buxton, in right of their manors here, were chief lords of the commons.

In 1742 the total of the quit-rents of the manors of Chanons, Westhall, Hackford, and Seckford, were 7l. 6s. 11d. ob. per ann.

The scite of the manor of Chanons is now called Chanons-hall, and is a seat of the Buxtons; it stands about a mile south-east of the church, and is a good old regular building, moated in.

The manors of WEST-HALL, HACKFORD, and SECKFORD, called afterwards Bacon's manor, belonged to Roger Bigot's manor of Forncet at the conquest, and the several parts before their union belonged to different families. West-hall was held by Richard de Hadesco, by the fourth part of a fee, in the time of Richard I. and after that was joined to Hackford's manor, which passed as Hackford's manor, in West Harling, and from thence to the Seckfords, and was by one of them sold to the Bacons, and joined to Chanons manor, as before-mentioned.

The manors of SKEYTON-HALL, *alias* WHITWELL's, and LAUNDE's, are now joined to the manors of Bunwell, Carleton, and Tibbenham, *cum Membris*, the members of it being these two manors:

Skeyton-hall

Skeyton-hall manor, *alias* Whitwell's, took its name from sir John de Skegeton, or Skeyton, lord of it in the time of Edward I. as also of Skeyton-hall, in Skeyton, from which village he took his name. Richer de Whitwell had it in 1261.

Launde's manor in 1264 belonged to Richard Lemming, of Tibbenham, who forfeited it for rebelling against Henry III. In 1278 Robert de Buckenham had it; and in 1283 William de Cruce, De-la-Croyz, or At-Cross, owned it. In 1287 John de Tibbenham had assize of bread and ale, and waif, allowed him here. In 1478 John Heydon, of Baconsthorpe, died seised, and from that time to this they have passed as Bunwell, John Buxton, esq. being now lord. Alan earl of Richmond's manor of Carleton extended hither.

Tibbenham vicarage is valued in the king's books at 6l. 16s. 8d. and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 46l. it pays no first-fruits nor tenths, and is capable of augmentation.

WACTON, or WATCH-TOWN, might probably take its name from the watch that used constantly to be kept upon the Roman highway, at the entrance of Stratton, in order to guard the passage to their fortification at Tasburgh. At the Confessor's and Conqueror's surveys the whole of Waketuna belonged to, and was included in the manor of Forncet, except one part, which belonged to the honor of Richmond, and afterwards became Park's manor here.

There was a fourth part of a fee held by Durand at the Conqueror's survey, and this was the manor of

WACTON

WACTON *Parva*, or LITTLE WACTON, which always attended the manor of Great Moulton from that time to this, in right of which the third turn of the sinecure rectory here is still appendant to it. The other third part of the village of Wacton *Parva* always belonged to Forncet, and a third part of the advowson, till it was lately purchased of the duke of Norfolk by the late Rev. John Soley, rector of Stratton St. Mary, who had also the other third part of the gift of Thomas Buckenham Tirrel, lord of the manor of Parks, in Great Wacton, to which it lately belonged, though formerly it was appendant to the manor of Stratton-hall, according to an agreement made in 1288, between Roger le Bigot, earl of Norfolk, and Gilbert de Bourne, owners of Stratton-hall, by which this turn was settled on Bourne and his heirs.

In 1725 sir Edward Duke, bart. presented the Rev. William Baker, A. M. to this rectory; and in 1762 the Rev. James Ansdell was presented by Thomas Lobb Chute, esq. of Pickenham, in the hundred of South Greenhoe.

The church was dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, and when Norwich Doomsday-book was made, the rector had a house and sixteen acres of glebe; the revenues were so small that it was not valued in the first taxation, but at the second it was valued at 40s. though not taxed; it now stands in the king's books thus:—2l. 13s. 4d. Wacton *Parva* rectory 30l. clear yearly value; no church; so that being discharged, it pays no first fruits or tenths, and is capable of augmentation.

In 1606 this parish was valued by itself at 233l. 13s. 8d. per annum to the tax. The church was in
constant

constant use till about 1500, and then it began to be called a chapel; and in 1510 was returned to be in decay. In 1520 it was so bad that service began to be omitted, and then there was a design of rebuilding it, though it never took place; for in 1522 William Cullyng, of Wacton St. Mary, was buried there, and willed, "That when it shall please the pariss-heners of the seid Wekton, to go about the halowyng of their churche, yf that they will doo geve the bishop his dener that day, then I wyll that mine executors shall soo geve the bishop his stypende, as he or they may agree." But notwithstanding this it fell down, and was never repaired. It stood on the piece of glebe now called Dove-house-acre, or chapel-yard; but the foundations are plowed over, though the rector upon every institution reads prayers there forenoon and afternoon, as in other rectories; the silver cup which belonged here is now the only cup in Great Wacton church, as the inscription on it shews.

The parish is now so far swallowed up in Great Wacton, that the bounds are not commonly known, so that all the tithes are received by the rector of Great Wacton; there being no house, church, or parissioner, it is an absolute sinecure. The rector at this day is possessed of nothing but about sixteen acres of glebe, and even that pays all taxes, tithes, and rates, to Wacton *Magna*, being rated at 5l. 10s. per annum.

Twelve small pieces of this glebe laid intermixed in ten or twelve inclosures of land belonging to Mrs. Martina Robe, widow, but are newly exchanged for the like quantity of land in two inclosures, containing about eight or nine acres, by consent of the bishop, rector, and patrons.

WACTON

WACTON Magna. The church is dedicated to All Saints; the advowson belonged to Forncet manor, till sold from it lately; when Norwich Doomsday-book was made the rector had a house and sixteen acres of glebe; the house is situated against the church-yard, and much the same quantity of glebe now remains; it was first valued at five, and afterwards at eight marks, and the monks of Thetford had a portion of tithes, valued at 6s. 8d. the whole village paid 2l. 6s. 8d. clear to every tenth.

Elizabeth Baspoole, widow, tied her estate in Wacton, now Mr. Joseph Cotman's, of Great Yarmouth, for ever, to pay 2l. 12s. yearly, to be given weekly at church, by 1s. a week in bread, to such poor people of the parish as constantly attend there.

The rectory of Great Wacton was in the duke of Norfolk in right of Forncet manor; and in 1603 the rector returned 67 communicants here.

In 1752 the late Rev. John Soley, of Long Stratton, (as patron of this turn) presented himself to the rectory of Great Wacton.

WACTON PARKS is the only manor in this parish, except the parts belonging to Forncet, and to the honor of Richmond, (of which this manor is held) and to the honor of Eye, both which extended hither; the duke of Norfolk, as lord of Forncet, and the lord of the honor of Richmond, are superior lords of the commons and wastes, and had their leets here, though there is a leet belonging to this manor, the jurisdiction of which extends to the tenants of the manor only, as the other leets do over the several tenants of the honor. It was first held by the family of the Wactons, and Stephen de Wacton, who had
in

in 1230, was the last lord of that name here. In 1235 Walter de Waleys owned it, who was succeeded by Thomas de Camera, or Chambers, of Bacton, who in 1285 had leet, or view of frank-pledge, and assize of bread and ale of all his tenants here, by the king's grant; this leet belonged to the king's hundred, and therefore the lord was obliged to pay 6d. per annum fee farm for it to the bailiff of the hundred. In 1298 it had 130 acres, one mill, and 16 messuages, belonging to it, and extended into Aflacton, Stratton, and Forncet. In 1315 Thomas De-la-Chambre was lord, and after him it came to the Parks, and passed with the manor of Park's, in Aflacton, and so to the Dukes, of Benhale, in Suffolk, and after the death of sir Edward Duke, who sold Aflacton, it went to sir John Duke, his son, who served as member of parliament for Orford, in Suffolk; he married Elizabeth, daughter and coheirefs of Edward Duke, M. D. by whom he had four daughters, and one son, sir Edward Duke, bart.* who married Mary, daughter of Thomas Rudge, of Staffordshire, but dying without issue, he gave it to his sister's son, Edmund Tirrel, of Gipping, esq. who sold it to his brother, Thomas Buckenham Tirrel, of Belfstead, near Ipswich, esq. The fines are arbitrary, the eldest son inherits, and it gives no dower.

There was a fourth part of a fee of the Forncet part granted from it, and was to be held of it; this was called

GREYSHAUGH, LA VILE's, or BACON's MANOR, and anciently belonged to Richard la Vile. In 1345 Thomas Grey, chaplain, and his parceners, had it. In 1370 Robert Bacon, of Dickleburgh, lord of it,

N

was

* The two hundred and ninety-first baronet, created in 1661.

was outlawed for felony, and it was seized by the king; but Joan, his wife, recovered it, and held it in 1391: at her death it went to the crown, and was purchased by the lord of Park's manor, and joined to it, and so continues.

The church and chancel are both of a height, and thatched, there is no porch, the tower is round, and hath three bells.

On a brass in the nave are the arms of Knevet, with a crescent in a lozenge;—*Hic jacet Abigal Sedley, vid: filia Johannis Knyvet, de Ashwold-thorp, armigeri, et nuper uxor Martini Sedley, de Morley, armigeri, quæ diem obiit 15 Decem. A. D. 1623.*

At the entrance of the chancel are two black marbles, thus inscribed:—*Hic jacet corpus Katherine, uxoris Johannis Mallom, clerici, et filia Timothei Mann, generosi, et Elizabethæ, uxoris ejus, quæ obiit 5 die Maij, A. D. 1685, ætat. 66.*—John Mallom, of Wacton, gent. had a grant of arms anno 1685, and a seat here.

Hic jacet corpus Eliz. uxoris Johannis Mallom, generosi, et filia Thomæ Stone, generosi, et Etheldredæ, uxoris ejus, quæ obiit 12 die Sept. A. D. 1684. Etiam predictus Johannes Mallom obiit Aug. A. D. 1687.—Mallom impales Stone.

On two other black marbles in the chancel, as soon as you enter it,—*Sub hoc marmore corpus Johannis Mallom, armigeri, jacet, qui vicesimo quarto die mensis Julij anno salutis, 1728, ætat. 58, diem clausit extremum.*

Mallom impaling Suckling,—*Depositum Elizabethæ, uxoris Johannis Mallom, filiæq. Roberti Suckling, de Woodton, armigeri, natu maximæ, 14 die Nov. anno salutis 1728, æt. 53 obiit.*

Here is a vault on the north side of the chancel, in which are buried,—*Guliel. Soley, 1725; he was of Pembroke-hall, Cambridge.—Susannah Soley, 1741.—M. B. Soley, 1741.—And Mary Baker, for whom there is a mural monument, with the arms of Soley impaling Baker,—Mary, wife of William Baker, clerk, rector of Hedenham, and elder daughter of John Soley, clerk, rector of this parish, was buried on the 17th day of April, 1741, aged 41.*

In the rails are buried,—*John Fley, gent. 2 Sept. 1647, aged 26.—Walter Reyner, Dec. 10, 1655.—Thomas Reyner, June 4, 1680.*

On a black marble in the nave,—*Samuel Cock, died Oct. 17, 1727, aged 77.*

*Stay hasty traveller, whoe'er you be,
Tell, if you can, what is become of me;
Conscious of guilt, my soul, as one afraid,
Fled from that body, which now here is laid;
Thoughtful in life, make that your chiefest care,
What you must be, as well as what you are;
Death makes the stoutest hearts and hands to yield,
Cease to dispute, and tamely quit the field;
And when approaching, makes all living fear,
To be they know not what, they know not where.*

Margaret, his wife, died August 20, 1736, æt. 81.

Over the door, (the usual place for St. Christopher) is an ancient picture of that Saint, painted on the

wall, with "*a terryble and ferefull countenance,*" according to the description of him in the Golden Legend, and of as prodigious size as the height of the wall would permit, though not so monstrous as the Legend makes him, for that says, "*he was xii cubeyts of length.*" At the uppermost corner, towards the west, are the two tables of the commandments; on the upper part of one is Moses, and on the other Aaron, and by them Solomon's temple at Jerusalem; at the lower corner, on the same side, is a shield, and on it the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded; types (we suppose) of the Aaronical priesthood; in the midst is a river, and the huge saint with "*a grete pole in his hand in slede of a stasse, by whiche he susleyned hym in the water;*" and on his shoulders is our Saviour represented as a child, "*which prayed him goodly to bere him over the water;*" and when Christopher "*lyfte the chyld on his sholdres, and*
 "*toke his stasse, and entred the ryuer for to passe,*
 "*the water of the ryuer arose, and swelled more*
 "*and more, and the chylde was heuy as leed, and*
 "*alway as he went ferder the water increfed, and*
 "*grewe more, and the chylde more and more wexed*
 "*heuy, in so moche that Christofer had grete an-*
 "*guyllhe, and was aserde to be drowned, and when*
 "*he was escaped with grete payne, and passed the*
 "*water, and set the chylde a grounde, he sayd to*
 "*the chylde, chylde, you hast put me in grete pe-*
 "*ryll, you weyft almost as I had had all the world*
 "*upon me, I myght bere no greter burden. And*
 "*the chylde answered, Christofer, marvayle the no-*
 "*thyng, for you hast not only borne all the worlde*
 "*upon the, but you hast borne hym that created*
 "*and made all the worlde, upon thy shoulders: I*
 "*am Jesu Chryst the Kyng, to whome you servest*
 "*in this werke, and bycause that you know that I*
 "*saye to the trouth, set thy stasse in the erth by thy*
 "*hows,*

“ hows, and thou shalt se to morrowe that it shall
 “ bere floures and fruyte. And anon he varyshed
 “ from his eyen. And then Christofer set his staffe
 “ in the erth, and whan he arose on the morrowe,
 “ he found his staffe like a palmyer, beryng floures
 “ leues, and dates.” And after this he was bap-
 tized; for when the king enquired his name and
 country, he answered thus: “ tofore I was baptysed
 “ I was named Reprobis, and now am named
 “ Christofer, tofore baptysm a Cananee, now a
 “ Chrysten man*.” And at the upper corner, to-
 wards the east, is Noah’s ark, the figure of Christian
 baptism, by which we enter into the church, which
 is represented at the lower corner of the same paint-
 ing, to which the saint directis his steps: all this
 confirms our former observation, that this saint
 is always placed here (opposite to the font, which an-
 ciently stood always between the two doors) “ *In al-*
lusion to the water in baptism,” notwithstanding what
 is said in the “ *Palæographia Britannica,*” &c. of Dr.
 Stukeley, against the truth of it.

This rectory is valued in the king’s books at 5l.
 stands there by the name of Wacton *Magna* rectory,
 and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 45l. is
 discharged of first-fruits and tenths, and is capable
 of augmentation.

The common, called Wacton-Great-Green, is rated,
 and the going of each beast is usually lett off at 12s.
 per annum.

* Golden Legend.





T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
N O R F O L K.

HUNDRED of DISS.

THIS hundred hath its name from the capital town, which is so called from the mere situate on its south side; *dice* in the Saxon language signifying a standing water, lake, or ditch; it is bounded on the south by the river Waveney, which now divides Norfolk from Suffolk; on the west by the hundred of Guiltcross; on the north by Depwade; and on the east by the half hundred of Earsham, which, joined with the half hundred of Diss, makes up a whole hundred; or, according to the old
A division,

division, two whole hundreds, and compleats the deanry of Redenhall, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and dioceſe of Norwich; the fee of it wholly belonged to Edward the Confeſſor, as demefne of the crown, till he granted to Ulfiæt and Stigand the ſoc of their own lands, and to the abbot of St. Edmund's Bury the half part of the ſoc and ſac of his lands, and of all his freemen.

But by the way, it will be neceſſary to obſerve, that what we now call Diſs hundred, in the Confeſſor's time was a hundred and half; the hundred was called Wineferthinc, or Winfarthing hundred, which earl Ralph held; upon whoſe forfeiture it came to the crown, and was added to the king's half hundred of Dice, and continued ever after as part of it, and this is the reaſon that the title in Doomsday-book is, "The hundred and half hundred of Dice;" the fee of which, with all the juřiſdiction thereof, (except what belonged to the abbot, to Ulfiæt, and Stigand,) came into the Conqueror's hands, and the ſoc and ſac of all his freemen in the hundred, that held leſs than thirty acres, belonged to his manor of Fersfield; but of thoſe that held thirty acres, or more, the ſoc and ſac belonged to the hundred of Winfarthing, which earl Ralph forfeited. But as it hath always attended the capital manor of the town, and now remains with it, we have no occaſion to diſcourſe of it ſingly any further.

The following is an alphabetical list of towns in this hundred, to which we add the number of votes polled at the contested election for knights of the shire, March 23, 1768, by freeholders resident in each :

	W.	de G.	A.	C.
Briffingham -	2	2	6	6
Burston -	2	2	1	1
Dickleburgh -	9	8	3	3
Difs -	21	20	32	29
Fersfield -	0	0	2	2
Frenze -	0	0	0	0
Giffing -	2	2	3	3
Osmundston, <i>alias</i> } Scole -	2	2	2	2
Roydon -	3	3	3	3
Shelfanger -	5	5	8	8
Shimpling -	6	6	2	2
Tivetshall St. Mary } and St. Margaret }	3	4	0	1
Thelveton -	1	1	0	0
Thorpe -	0	0	0	0
Winfarthing -	2	3	4	3
Total	58	58	66	63

This hundred is about seven miles by five in extent, and pays 17l. 5s. to the general county rate, at a fix hundred pound levy.

Seats and principal Houses in the hundred of Difs.

Dickleburgh, Mr. Rant
Difs, Philip Meadows, esq.
Roydon, John Frere, esq. F. R. and A. S.
Thelveton, Thomas Havers, esq.

The whole hundred is inclosed, and abounds much with wood, it being reckoned as part of the Woodland half of Norfolk: the roads are very bad in winter, especially that part by Giffing, and Tittleshall; the lands in general are moist, occasioned by their being flat, and having a blue clay within a foot or two of the earth's surface, through which the water cannot pierce, it containing twenty or thirty feet in depth in many places; the soil is in general rich, and about one half of the land is used for the plow, the other for the dairy and grazing; it produces much wheat, turnips, clover, and all other grain in abundance, except buck, or brank, and cole-seed, of which there is but little sown.

This hundred was the first written and published by the late Rev. Francis Blomefield, in his "Essay towards an History of Norfolk," and, we believe, the most correct and particular. He resided at Fersfield, both as rector and patron of that church, which enabled him to descend to that minutiae of description which must appear trifling to a common reader. We have endeavoured to select the more important and interesting passages; but we find it difficult to confine the vast variety of matter to proper bounds.

BRISSINGHAM, BRISINGHAM, or BRESINGHAM*.
This town about 963 was given by Osulph le Sire, and lady Leofrine, his wife, to the abbey of St. Edmund's Bury, to which it belonged in the Confessor's time, except that part which Almar then held of that house, which was almost half the town. This part was a manor also, and held in the Conqueror's time by Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, who was afterwards infeoffed

* This seems to signify the village of broad low meadows.

infeoffed in the other part by abbot Baldwin, to hold it of the abbey at one fee, and to pay nothing to the ward of Norwich castle, because the abbot paid 7s. every twenty weeks for the whole town. The capital manor at the survey was in the abbot, who had then two carucates of land in demesne, and twelve focmen, who held sixty acres of land, but could not sell or give it any one without licence. In the Confessor's survey the manor was of 40s. value, but in the Conqueror's was risen to 60s. The town was then two miles long, and a mile and a half broad, and paid 12d. Dane gelt; it extended at that time into Shimpling, Fersfield, Shelfanger, and Roydon.

In William Rufus's time the earl had the whole town, all which he infeoffed in William de Verdon about 1100, or before, and it was all along held of the Norfolk family.

In 1285 sir John Verdon, knt. claimed view of frank-pledge, assize of bread and ale, infangthef, gallows, and free-warren, in all his lands and manors in Norfolk. viz. Briffingham, Moulton *Magna*, Saxlingham, and Roydon; all which privileges were granted to his father by Henry III. as the charter then produced evidently proved.

About 1328 the prior of Blythburgh had 12d. a year paid out of this manor, and it paid 4d. per ann. to the hundred for the leet fee, the lord of the hundred having granted this manor liberty of a leet for that payment, and for suit of the hundred court; which being troublesome, the lord paid 3s. per ann. in lieu thereof. The manor-house stood near Briffingham-wood, in the Hall-grounds, the Swan-hill and the large motes still remaining, plainly shew the scite of it. In this seat the Verdots had lived many
ages

ages; but at this time sir John Verdon removed from hence to Martlesham, in Suffolk. We have seen an inventory of the goods left in the house here, dated 1328, among which several things for the use of the chapel are named, and a *poor's box* standing at the great hall door, the custom of that time being, to put in what every one pleased, instead of giving servants, as is usual now: he seems to have been a man of great hospitality; for he left eighty dishes, seventy-five plates, forty saucers, and twelve cups, to treat his tenants at his coming over.

Sir John de Verdon, knt. his second son, became lord; he held Briffingham, with the advowson, of the earl Marshal, at two fees, and the earl held it of the abbot of St. Edmund, and the abbot of the king; the said John had view of frank-pledge, and all other liberties before specified. The manor-house, and 300 acres of ploughed land in demesne, being then valued at 7l. 10s. which is 6d. an acre; thirty acres of wood, valued at 7s. 6d. per ann. forty acres of mowing meadow, worth 3l. 6s. 8d. that is, 10d. an acre; nineteen acres one rood of pasture ground, valued at 6s. 5d. a year; and two windmills, at 20s. per ann. besides the commons lying round the whole town, which in eggs, hens, and days works, paid to the lords by the commoners, were worth 10s. per ann. and the lord had twenty acres of fen to dig turf in, worth 5s. a year; he had also liberty of free-warren by the king's charter, and a free fishery, with all manner of boats and nets, throughout his manors of Briffingham and Roydon, as far as Difs; to the said manor belonged ninety-five copyholders, who held among them seventy-four messuages, and 588 acres two roods of land in villainage; there were six cottagers in villainage, and the lord paid yearly 3s. in full satisfaction of all suit to the hundred court of Difs,

Difs, and the same extent saith, that Filby's manor, and Boyland's manor, &c. were held of him.

The profits, customs, services, and tenures, of the manor of Bressingham, made on Wednesday before the feast of St. Dunstan, in the 15th year of king Edward III. anno 1341.

Memorandum. "That all the commoners upon the commons of this town, both freeholders and copyholders, pay hens eggs, and days works, with their plough, to the lord, except those that have liberty of faldage, and that all copyholders are obliged to have their sheep in the lord's fold, from Pentecost to St. Martin." The quit-rents, (in money) and free rents, were 4l. 2s. 2d. q. and three roots of ginger, of 1d. value; ninety-five hens, justly valued at 7s. 2d. seventeen capons, valued at 1d. ob. each; five ducks, valued at 10d. 539 eggs, and more, valued at 3d. a hundred; 212 days works in autumn, the workmen to be maintained by the lord, valued at 1d. a day; 174 afternoons works in autumn, 1d. each, the workmen having no victuals; twenty-five days work with their carts and horses, and no victuals allowed them, valued at 2d. each day; 120 alebeves*, or as many as will come; 183 journeys at plough, without victuals, if all come in to do their work, and if they do not, they must work half a day for every day of ploughing, the whole valued at 7s. 3d. ob. 170 days work and an half in sheering, 174 days work in mowing, every four days valued at 1d. fifteen haymakers to make it, as the mowers cut it, they being obliged to make
and

* These were general carting days, on which the tenant used to go, or not, as they pleased, and had their name because the lord used to treat them well with provisions and *ale*.

and mow 59 acres one rood, the whole of cutting and getting up is valued at 4d. an acre; fifty-four days to cut and make the lord's wood, and to finish it before Christmas; twenty days to pull the lords hemp; 120 days work of a man and horse, every day valued at 1d. thirty-three days work of a man, each worth a 1d. besides days made uncertain, because when they do not plough, or cart, they are to do other work, as the lord pleases; but there are 220 works more, of half a day each, value certain; twelve chickens, one halfpenny each; forty-one carriages to carry corn, worth 20d. ob. 160 days work in carting out the muck; forty-one days to carry the hay, valued at 20d. ob. three days to cart the timber; fourteen loads of hay to be threshed, valued at 2d. a load; fourteen loads of corn to be threshed, valued at 2d. a load; twenty-eight days to make hurdles for the fold; eighteen to clean and repair the cow binns; and ten to repair the horses stalls, all which services were valued at 5l. 11s. 9d. q.†

By this account we may see the difference of the value of things then and now; in what a servile condition the copyholders were, and how grand the lords must be, who had all works done without any expence. This being as perfect an account as we ever saw of any manor, we could not omit inserting it, and do not doubt its being acceptable to some, though, we must own, to others it may seem useless; however, certain it is, that the quit-rents of the manor have remained to this day *according to this composition.*‡

Ifabel,

[† The Extent, or Composition Rol.

‡ Blomefield.

Isabel, daughter of sir John Verdon, knt. by a second wife, married sir Imbert Noon, of Shelfanger, in whose possession the manors were in 1391; but Briffingham went to Margaret, his only daughter by his first wife, his sole heiress, who was lady here in 1396, and lived with her mother-in-law at Shelfanger; at whose death this manor and others came to sir John Pilkington, in right of Margaret, his wife, who was widow of sir Hugh Bradshaw, and daughter and heiress of sir John Verdon; but Moulton, Shelfanger, &c. went to the Noons.

This family took their surname from a town which they were lords of in Lancashire, where they were possessed of a great estate, as is proved by the escheat rolls in the Tower, and in particular by a grant of free warren to this very sir John Pilkington, in all his manors in that shire, in which twenty at least are named.

In 1401 sir John held Briffingham manor of Thomas Mowbray, earl marshal, at two fees and a half quarter, as of Forncet manor. In 1405 the manor was lett for seven years, at 24l. per ann. the fishery in Roydon for 30s. and that in Briffingham for thirty more.

In this family the manors remained, and sir Thomas Pilkington in 1450 was admitted one of the chamberlains of the Exchequer; he was very stedfast to the Yorkists, and all along in those civil wars took part with Edward IV. and suffered much for it: after the death of that king, and of Edward V. and Richard III. he was one of those who joined with the earl of Lincoln, earl of Kildare, lord Lovel, sir Thomas Broughton, and other Lancashire gentlemen, on the behalf of Lambert Simnell, the counterfeit Plan-

tagenet, and fighting on his side at the battle of Stoke, near Newark, in 1487, was there slain; whereupon all his lands were forfeited to the crown, and the year following were granted to George lord Strange, son of Thomas Stanley, earl of Derby, and to his heirs male, Stagenhoe, in Hertfordshire, the seat of the Pilkingtons, and this manor, being among them; but notwithstanding this, in 1493 inquisitions were awarded into Norfolk and Suffolk, as at the death of sir Thomas aforesaid, in which it was found that sir Roger Pilkington, knt. was his son and heir, who in the mean time had got his father's attainder, and the grant made to the lord Strange, reversed, and now he inherited his paternal estate; he married Alice, daughter of sir John Savage, knt. and began to rebuild Briffingham church and tower, though he lived not to see them finished; at his death his estate was divided among his six daughters, viz. Margaret, married to Thomas Pudsey; Catherine, to John Atlow, or Atlow; Alice, to Edmund Saltmarsh; Elizabeth, to William Huntley; Margery, to Henry Pudsey; and Joan, to John Daniel, of Daresbury, in Cheshire; each of which had a sixth part of the manor and advowson in right of their wives.

Afterwards sir Nicholas Bacon, lord keeper, being sole feoffee, in whom the title was entirely vested in order for sale, the whole manor, with the advowson, was sold by him to Thomas duke of Norfolk, and his feoffees, who kept their first court here the 10th of February, 1564.

In 1578 his son, Thomas duke of Norfolk, kept his first court, upon whose attainder it was forfeited to the crown, and the queen kept court here; she granted it to sir William Cecil, knight of the garter, and others, whether to the use of the Howard family,

mily, or not, we cannot say; however, certain it is, that it was in Philip earl of Arundel and Surrey, and upon his attainder, in 1589, was seized again by the queen; from which time it remained in the crown till the 1st of James I. when Thomas, son of the said earl, was restored to his honor and estate; and in that year the king by letters patent, dated June 17, restored the manor and advowson to Thomas lord Howard, and Henry Howard, to each a moiety.

In 1625 it was mortgaged; but about 1665, the debt being paid, it was conveyed to the duke of Norfolk, in which family it hath ever since continued, Charles Howard, duke of Norfolk, earl marshal of England, being lord and patron at this time, 1781.

BOYLAND MANOR belonged to Aelfus in the Confeffor's time, and was in the Conqueror's hands at the survey, being by him committed to Godric's custody, and was then very small. It was afterwards in the earl of Norfolk, and by him united to the great manor, and so continued till the first sir John de Verdon, about 1240, conveyed it to Walter de Briffingham, to be held by him and his heirs, of the manor of Briffingham; but his grandson sold it in 1268 to sir Richard de Boyland, knt. from whom the manor took its name.

The Briffingham family were of good account, and had large possessions here and in other places, as we find by several evidences.

This sir Richard was a very great man in the time of Edward I. being justice itinerant in this county, and owner of many great lordships and estates, but how he acquired them we may easily judge; for Mr. Weaver informs us from Stowe, and other historians, that he

being one of the commissioners for the government of the kingdom in the absence of Edward I. was at the king's return found guilty of manifest corruption in the administration of justice, and fined 4000 marks for his intolerable extortions. After this he retired hither, where he built a noble seat, surrounded with a large moat, which he continued round the orchards, park, and all his lands, the remains of which may be seen at this day; but his greatest work was that subterraneous vault, or arch, now remaining, commonly called the *conduit*, which was made with a double design, both for bathing and for a continual supply of water to these moats. It is situate about half a furlong S. W. from the house, and is very remarkable, being arched over very strong, cieled very smooth, and paved at the bottom; the mouth of it is about three feet wide, but when you enter, beyond the rubbish which is thrown in, a man may fairly walk upright, it goes in a strait line, about thirty or forty roods in length, and near the further end is a large well, exceeding deep, beyond which there is a wall, and there the strait line of the vault ends. This well continually overflows, so that the water runs about a foot deep the whole length of the vault, occasioned by its outlet being almost stopped up with rubbish, or else it would not run above two or three inches in depth; when you have entered this vault about four roods, there are two mouths of other arches, one on the right hand, and another on the left, from which the water continually flows into the great arch, so that the three currents have one discharge only: what is in these two we know not; for though the mouths seem large, the arches are not big enough for one to enter: right over the well in the close is a hill raised, to determine the place where the well is; when the water runs out it comes directly into a square bath, over which there was lately a bathing-house

house of brick, with a summer-house joined to it, the ruins of which still remain; out of this the water runs into such another square bath, which was designed as a common one, it being never covered: from this is a small conveyance, which seems to have been arched over formerly, that leads directly into the moat that surrounds the orchard. Whether this water was heretofore remarkable for any medicinal virtue, we know not; but if not, are apt to think that this overflowing spring induced him to settle here, a spring of any kind being very rare in this part, there being little water for use but what comes from ponds and moats, which might be the reason he bestowed such cost on it. The water is very cold, and in the extremity of frost never freezes, though the motion is but little. The people that come to see this place have pulled down most of the ruins, to throw into the vault, to hear the sound, which is very great, and continues long; the meadow is called the Conduit Meadow, and is part of the estate of the duke of Norfolk.

In 1285 he had a charter for free-warren in all his demesnes here; and about this time he added to the manor divers lands and tenements in this town, which he purchased of Robert le Bretun.

Sir John Boyland, of Boyland-hall, in Briffingham, who died without issue male about 1370, leaving only one daughter, Maud, married to John Lancaster, sen. esq. of Briffingham, was of a good family in this country; he added to it by purchasing Filby's manor and uniting it to this, as he did the tenement of Irland's and all the services thereto belonging, which was of his own inheritance, all which came to Edward Bolton, esq. in right of his wife, Benedicta Lancaster, about 1500.

His great grandson, Edward Bolton, dying without issue, the manor and tenements aforesaid descended to his four sisters, and their husbands sold them to Philip earl of Arundel in 1583. together with Rose's and Irland's: at this time the scite of the manor, with the demesnes, whereof part was in the park of Kenninghall, was lett to the keeper of the old park for his dwelling, and so had been ever since 1571, before which time it was hired by the Norfolk family, if not mortgaged to them by William Bolton, though there was no title compleated till now: from this time it continued in the Norfolk family, the present duke being now lord.

MIDDLETON'S MANOR had its beginning in 1276, when Wigona de Verdon and her partners held it; a part of it afterwards came to a branch of the Briffingham family.

In the time of Edward II. Hugh de Pool, of Briffingham, seems to have had it. In 1338 his grandson aliened it to Wm. de Middleton, of Briffingham; thus it continued to 1359, and then the said William, and all other parties concerned, joined in a fine, and conveyed it absolutely to Mary de Brewse, countess of Norfolk, and her heirs, at which time the extent of it was 118 acres of land, four of meadow, twenty-four of wood, twenty of pasture, and 6cs. rent, lying in Briffingham, &c. It was afterwards united to the capital manor.

FILBY'S MANOR had its scite in this parish, though half of its lands and rents were in Roydon; it was part of the great manor till the first sir John Verdon gave it to his chaplain; soon after which it was in the Morleys, lords of Roydon, who held it of sir John Verdon, lord of Briffingham, by the annual
payment

payment of 2s. and 20s. scutage, and in them it continued.

From this family it went to the Filbys, who in 1335 paid three roots of ginger, or 1d. per annum, to the capital lord of Briffingham, in lieu of all services.

In 1460 John Lancaster, lord of Boyland manor, had purchased all that part of this manor that laid in Briffingham, and joined it to his manor of Boyland, except the part that laid in Roydon, in 1480. John Lancaster, gent. in 1521 sold it to Wm. Bolton, gent. and so it was joined again to Boyland manor, with which it continues at this day, though the demesnes are sold from it.

The PRIORY MANOR was taken out of the great manor in the beginning of the reign of Edward II. when sir John de Verdon granted it to the prior of St. James the Apostle, of Old Buckenham.

The value of this manor in 1479 was 31s. 5d. ob. in quit-rents, besides the demesnes; the whole temporalities of the prior here were taxed at 26s. in 1425.

It continued in this house till its dissolution, from which time it remained in the crown till 1557, when Philip and Mary, by their letters patent, granted it to Thomas Guybon, of Lynn-Regis, esq. and William Myne, of London, gent. to be held by fealty only in free soccage, as of the manor of East Greenwich, in Kent. In a few years time they sold it to Robert and Francis Buxton, of Tibbenham, in Norfolk; and they in 1560 to Edmund Hoare, of Palgrave, in Suffolk;

folk; and he in 1561 to Thomas Howard, of Burston.

A daughter and heiress of the Howards married Mr. Dowe, and she in her widowhood passed it to the Bringloes, Mr. John Bringloe being the last male of that family that enjoyed it, whose daughter married Mr. Robert Onge, of Kenninghall, lord of the whole manor, and part of the demesnes. The other part, called Prior's lands, lying at Crosgate, in Fersfield, and Briffingham, were sold from the manor by the Buxtons, and are now divided into parcels, some being held by Mr. John Edwards, of Winfarthing, and others by divers persons.

The customs of these manors are as follow, viz.
 " The fines are at the lord's will, and the copyhold descends to the eldest son; the tenants have liberty to pull down and waste their copyhold houses, to fell and cut down wood and timber on the copyhold, without licence, and to plant and cut down all manner of wood and timber on all the commons and wastes against their own lands, by the name of a free-board, or out-run, and to dig clay and turf, and cut furze and bushes, on all the commons."

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and had fifteen acres of land belonging to it at the conquest; it is a rectory, to which belongs a manor, called

The RECTORY MANOR, the customs of which are the same as the other manors, except this, that the tenants cannot waste, or pull down their copyhold houses, without licence. The glebe, or demesnes, in the time of Edward III. were forty acres; and in 1554 fifty-one acres and an half; but much being granted

to be held by copy of court-roll, they are now reduced to about twenty acres. The patronage always hath, and now continues with the capital manor, and the rectory is valued in the king's books at 15l.

In 1715, September 23. the Rev. Humphry Clayton, A. B. was presented to this rectory by William Clayton, and Thomas Dwyer, clerk, patrons for this turn.

The following religious persons had temporalities here, which were thus taxed in 1428:—The prior of Kersey's at 12d —The abbot of Sibton's (being part of Friars manor in Shelfanger, that extended hither) at 6s. 8d.—And the prior of Buckenham's at 26s.

Besides these the prior of St. John Baptist's commandry of the hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, at Carbrook, had an annual payment of 1d. out of seven acres of land lying here, which was held free of that house by the said payment. This land was owned by Francis Blomefield, clerk, of Fersfield.

The church here was much decayed, as should seem by the rebuilding the present fabric, which was begun by sir Roger Pilkington, knt lord of the manor, whose arms are cut in stone over the west door of the tower, quartering the arms of Verdon; on the other side of which is a single coat of some benefactor to the building, which was also in the church windows, though now lost. But though it was begun by him, he lived not to see it finished, for it was not perfected till 1527.

Among Mr. le Neve's papers we find, that against the north wall of this chancel, at the upper end thereof,

thereof, was a fair raised monument, once adorned with two fair portraitures, and escutcheons of brasse, but now all reaved, with the epitaphs; he observed, that the inhabitants told him it was a knight of the family of the Pilkingtons: and in Mr. Anstis's book it is said, that there is a fair monument, having its brasses taken away, erected for a Pilkington, from which we imagine that this sir Roger Pilkington, and his wife, were buried under it, the tradition still remaining that it was the tomb of the builder of the church; it is now taken down, and the top stone laid level with the floor, that it might not hinder the uniformity of the altar-rails, the steps of which half cover the stone.

The building is very neat and uniform, having a nave, two aisles, and south porch, all covered with lead, a fine lofty square tower, with a tunable ring of five bells; the chancel is tiled, which was not rebuilt with the church, it being much more ancient. Here are but few stones, and those that had brasses are all disrobed.

In the windows the following coats still remain, viz. In the south aisle the arms of Bury abbey; in the north windows of the nave are Verdon's arms; and in a north aisle window, Cressi, or Morley. Those that follow are now lost, Scales and Howard Brotherton, Ufford and Beck, Vesey, Segrave, the East Angles, and St. George's.

In the chancel a black marble, with the arms and crest of—*The Rev. Francis Tilney, A. M. obiit Sept. 13, 1715, ætat. 81.*—Also of—*Elizabeth, his wife, who died April 23, 1691;*—and of their son.

John

John Lancaster, jun. esq. was buried here, with several of that family, whose memorials are all lost.

In 1569 Henry Symonds, buried in this church, gave 20s to the poor, and died possessed of a good estate here; he had purchased the scite only, and two closes, of Philby's tenement, or manor, from Boyland's, manor.

Two guilds were kept in this church, the one dedicated to St. John the Baptist, the other to St. Peter; a fair book of their accounts and lands is still in the church. St. John's guild had above twenty brethren and sisters on their bead-roll when the guild was dissolved in 1547; and their hall was vested in feoffees for the use of the poor.

St. Peter's guild was a less society, and having no hall, it was kept at the guild-holders houses; they had two pieces of land, which at the dissolution were vested in feoffees for the use of the poor, and are freehold.

In 1506, April 2, Thomas Smetherste, rector here, made his will, which is a very remarkable one, as not having one *superstitious* bequest in it, the substance of which is, that what God gave him he bequeathed as follows: "I commend those things which are Cæsar's, " to Cæsar, the earth, to the earth, and those things " which are God's, to God; that is, my soul to " Christ. And I will, that all the poor that come " to my burial have as much money distributed " among them as my circumstances will allow, at the " discretion of my executors; and if I have de- " frauded any one, so that he can in conscience say, " I ought to recompense, I will that recompence be made

“ made him. I give to sir Richard Beeston, parish
 “ priest of Roydon, for his constant and true friend-
 “ ship, 6s. 8d. and one of my gowns; and I make
 “ sir James Smetherste, my brother, executor.”

In 1517 there was a gathering in all the neighbouring towns for to finish the roof of the church.

In 1632 Henry Ruffels gave 10l. to the benefit of the poor.

Mr. Tirrel gave 10l. and the parish had 6l. 13s. 4d. out at use, of divers gifts; the town gave 4l. out of their stock, and sold a piece of town land, which laid in Baldryes, with another piece in Winofalls, for 20l. to Mrs. Frere; these two pieces were freehold of Giffinghall manor, held at 9d. per ann. and were given in the time of Edward IV. by Robert Kyrkebi, and John Gooch. This they expended about paving, seating, and adorning the roof of the church, and carving the stools, what remained being kept for town stock.

In 1638 the inhabitants petitioned the bishop, that, Whereas the village of Brissingham grew very populous, and the parish church was large and neat on the outside, but much unbeautified within, the pavement and seats being decayed, and others wanting addition, the parishioners sitting in no order, the font standing in an obscure place, behind one of the pillars, &c. that they might have licence to do all things convenient for the beauty of the church, and decent placing the inhabitants therein.

In 1644, April 7, captain Gilley was paid 6s. by the town for viewing the church, to abolish *superstitious* pictures, and immediately after John Nun was paid

paid for two days work for taking down glafs and pictures about the church, and filing the letters off the bells. This church suffered much in these times; for in 1664, 54l. 11s. 8d. was raised by rate to put it in order, and to buy it ornaments, of all which it was spoiled.

About 1668 the town purchased certain lands, called le Holmes, &c. now lett at 39s. per ann.

The town close, lying against Briffingham great common, heretofore called Chedbury-close, is freehold, and is lett at 2l. 10s. per ann. this hath belonged to the church many ages, even before 1400.

The town house, in which two poor families dwell, standing on the east side of the great common, was erected about 1630, by the inhabitants, upon a piece of their common.

Elizabeth, widow of Mr. John Barker, rector of Fersfield, by will dated June 18, 1728, gave lands, &c. lying in Briffingham, the profits of which to be expended in the teaching of as many poor children (whose parents are settled inhabitants of Briffingham) above eight, and under ten years old, in reading, writing, spinning, and other work, and learning the church catechism, as the produce will pay for.—Several other charitable donations belong to this parish.

In 1549 the cross was pulled down, and the materials sold, as was all the church plate, (except enough to make a new cup) with a vestment, rochet, cross cloth, and altar cloth; but in queen Mary's time they bought a new rochet, and procession book, in English.

This

This town, as appears from ancient evidences, notwithstanding the common received opinion to the contrary, was most field uninclosed; for at all times great number of licences were granted the tenants to inclose their lands, and vast numbers of them in the time of Henry VII. when it seems they completed the whole, and this is the reason that all the highways and lanes in this and the neighbouring parishes are measured into the lands that lie against them.

The commons are very large, and so they were always; for in an extent in sir John Verdon's time it is said, that the town is surrounded with common, the names of which at this time are, Boyland-green, Whitehouse-green, Piddock's-green, the Great Common, with Aldwood-green, and Jay's-green, now joined thereto, Roydon-green, the Fenn Commons, Derby's-green, Winley-green, and Thwayt-green.

In this parish lived one Mr. Harrison, who was a curious collector of Roman coins, of gold, silver, and copper, from Pompey the Great, to Honorius and Arcadius; his collection was sold by his son to sir Simon D'Ewes, of Stow-Langetot, in Suffolk, knight. he was a very curious person, and lived in the house in which Robert Kent, sen. since dwelt, which was adorned in a very odd manner: in the parlor stood the effigy of a man, which had a speaking trumpet, put through the wall into the yard, fixed to his mouth, so that upon one's entering the room it used to bid him welcome, by a servant's speaking into the trumpet in the yard.

On the parlor door you may read the following distich in brass capitals, in-laid in the wood:

Reda

*Reda, patens, felix, Jesus, via, janua, vita,
Alpha, docet, verbum, ducit, omega, beat.*

And on the stair-case door is a brass plate, with a circle engraved thereon, equally divided by the twenty-four letters, and this distich, in capitals of lead, in-laid in the wood:

*Difficilis, cels----sera, porta, Olympi,
Fit, facilis, fidei, cardine, clave, manu*

In 1364 John Spilwan held lands here, which family were of good account in this country, though we do not find them owners of any manors.

In 1603 it was returned that there were 160 communicants in this parish, which had in 1735 near seventy dwelling-houses, and about 400 inhabitants. It used to pay 3l. 14s. for every tenth. Parliament valuations under the associations were 1150l. and 1104l. the present valuation being 1093l. 10s. The leet-fee paid to the lord was 20s. but the leet being dropped, there is no fee paid.

BURSTON is wrote in Doomsday-book BERTUNA. The church and guild here were dedicated to the Blessed Virgin; it was a rectory appropriated by John of Oxford, bishop of Norwich, to Butley priory, who were patrons, it being given them by Henry I. at their founder's request, before he gave the manor to the Fitz-Walters. In 1293 their temporals were taxed at 26s. 6d. and their spirituals at 17l. 6s. 8d. The impropriation was confirmed by the archbishop, and the vicar had a pension of 26s. 8d. payable by the prior out of the great tithes, all which were afterwards disappropriated by the prior and convent's resigning up the church and
tithes

tithes, and presenting a rector. In 1510 a pension of 40s. per ann. was reserved to the prior out of the rectory. The lands that belonged to the priory were granted by queen Elizabeth to different persons, some to Edward Dyer, Hugh Cressiner, and others. This rectory is valued in the king's books at 16l.

In 1546, August 20, Thomas Mildmay, esq. one of the king's auditors, presented, who had this turn from Nicholas Arrowsmith esq. who had it by grant from the prior before the house was dissolved.

In 1550, May 24, Edward VI. presented, from which time the rectors have been presented by the crown; and in 1741 George II. presented the Rev. Isaac Cowper to this rectory.

The church is small, and is leaved, the south porch and chancel are tiled, the steeple is round at bottom, and octangular at top, having five bells.

Here are no memorials, save a black marble in the church, for—*Francis Alpe, gent. who died July the 15th, 1670, aged 86 years.*

And in the yard, at the east end of the chancel, a grave-post much decayed, for—*Hugh More, late rector*;—by which it appears that he was a *Scottch-man*, though it is now almost illegible.

Burston at first was in three parts, though the whole was held of Robert Mallet, lord of the honor of Eye, and then was two miles long, and one broad, and paid 12d to the gelt.

These parcels soon after became two manors, one called Brockdish-hall, from a family of that name; the

the other Meauling's-hall, from Peter de Meauling, or Melding, lord thereof, and now, by corruption, Milding-hall, both being always held of Eye honor.

The MANOR of BROCKDISH-HALL was given by Henry I. to the Fitz-Walters, from whom it went very early to Geffry de Brockdish, whose descendents enjoyed it.

Sir Stephen de Brockdish in 1327 purchased lands to this manor of Ernold de Montenev, and had view of frankpledge allowed him in 1286, and assize of bread and beer.

In 1380 William Ufford, earl of Suffolk, as lord of Eye honor, claimed the fines and amerciaments of Brockdish's tenants, in Burston, and elsewhere, in the half hundred of Dis, where Walter le Fitz-Walter, of Wodeham, was lord, as being the capital lord of whom this manor was held. We do not find how it went from the Brockdish family, but it was in the Boylands, from whom it passed by Maud, the heiress of that family, to John Lancaster, of Brisingham, and went as Boyland-hall till about 1500, when it was aliened to sir John Sharpe, knt. who in 1514 obtained licence to alien it to William Tyler, or Tylot, and his heirs, to be held as formerly, by the service of a red rose yearly, payable to the duke of Suffolk, to his honor of Eye. In 1518 this sir John Sharpe, knt. and sir William Tyler, knt. &c. lords of Brockdish, and the prior of Old Buckenham, and the convent there, lords of the manor of Melding-hall, agreed to divide the two manors, which having for a long time been farmed together, were now so intermixed, that they knew not their separate rights, wherefore they got two books in indented bindings, the one having the convent seal affixed
C thereto

thereto, and the other the seals of the two knights, &c. in these the division was entered, and the one was delivered to the prior, and the other to sir John Sharpe, &c. which is now among the evidences of the manor.

Robert Browne was cousin and heir to sir John Sharpe, from whom it came to the Pettus', and from them to Bolton, and from Bolton to Thomas Proctor, senior, clerk, whose kinswoman and heiress married John Buxton, of St. Margaret's, who finding no licence for the alienation from Bolton to Proctor, was forced to get a royal pardon, from which time both these manors have been in that family, Elizabeth Buxton, a minor, being lady in 1735.

MELDING-HALL MANOR was purchased by sir Peter de Meauling, or Melding, of Henry I. to be held by this serjeanty, or service, that the owner of it "should always sell the beasts taken in Norfolk, or Suffolk, for the king's debts;" it was then valued at 8l. per ann. Peter de Melding, his grandson, in 1249 sold it to sir Robert du Bois, of Fersfield, reserving a rent of 4l. and the service of a quarter of a knight's fee. Failing heirs male it came to sir William Carnobel, knt. who was lord in 1315. It soon after came into the family of de Swillington, of Ditchingham; and in the year 1424 sir John Graa, knt. had two parts of the manor in right of Margaret, his wife, sister of sir John Swillington, all which was mortgaged to Thomas Murstead, esq. for two hundred marks; from this time to 1454 we know nothing of it; but in that year sir Andrew Ogard, knt. died without issue, seized of this manor of Melding-hall, and it looks as if he gave it to Buckenham priory; for it appears from the book of accounts of that house, that this manor belonged to it,

it, and in 1479 was lett at 15l. 10s. at which time the prior hired the other manor at 5l. 10s. per ann. and lett them together; and from this time it continued in the convent till its dissolution, and then went to the crown, and being afterwards granted off, it belonged in 1570 to Francis Bowlton; and in 1573 it came by exchange to Thomas and Michael Heneage; and after that, having passed through divers families, though with but small continuance in any of them, it came to the Buxtons, and was then joined to the other manor.

Mr. le Neve says, there was a manor here (which, we imagine, was this) that all along attended the fate of the Albanys, of Buckenham-castle, from whom it came to the Orrebys, from thence to the Cailys, and so to the Cliftons, and was settled by sir John Clifton, knt. whose daughter, Margaret, married sir Andrew Ogard, knt. of Rhye, in Hertfordshire, who died seised as aforesaid.

This might be held of them as capital lords, under Eye honor, till the whole fee came to sir Andrew, about 1456, whether by marriage, purchase, or descent, we do not learn.

Here is 10s. a year given to the poor, payable out of Mr. Alpe Ward's farm, given by one of the Alpes, and also two town-houses.

In 1603 here were eighty communicants; and in 1735 there were forty-eight dwelling-houses, and about 250 inhabitants.

The old tenth was 2l. 12s. The valuation at the association was 780l. and that to the king's tax is 528l. per ann.

The commons are, Pound-green, Church-green, and Burston, or Northgate-green, where they common solely.

The custom of the manor is to the eldest son, and the fine at the lord's will. The leet belongs to the hundred, to which it pays 2s. leet fee.

The Burstons, of Burston, are an ancient family.

DICKLEBURGH, wrote in Doomsday-book Diccles-Burc is a large parish, containing the whole town of Semere, which at the conquest was as large as Dickleburgh itself, to which it is now a hamlet. This town was anciently divided into four parts, or portions, each of which had a rector of its own, and served by turns in Dickleburgh church. The first portion was called sometimes Fouldon, sometimes the Portion in the Marsh, (it being the lowest part of the town) sometimes the Portion of Henry, who was rector in 1256, but most commonly the portion of Richard, who was rector of it when the Lincoln taxation was made, it being then valued at ten marks; out of this portion the abbot of Bury had an annual pension of 15s. The second was called the Portion in the Fields, (it being the upper part of the town) sometimes the Portion of Henry, and sometimes Culphoe's Portion, John de Culphoe being rector at the Lincoln taxation, and John of St. Edmund's Bury at the Norwich taxation, when it was valued as Culphoe's, and paid a pension to the abbot of St. Edmund of 9s, yearly. The third portion belonged to that part of the town which is now called Langmere*, and is still a hamlet belonging to it, all
which

* That is the long mere.

which lies in the hundred of Earsham, and hath a separate leet, which now belongs to Dickleburgh hall manor, and its jurisdiction extends to all that part of the town which lies in Earsham hundred. The leet and rovalties of the other part in Dis hundred belonged at this time to the lord of the hundred, but there are no leet fees due to either of them; this was at the conquest included in Semere, of which it was near the half, and was given to Butley priory, after the decease, or cession, of Ranulf the chaplain, who had been presented thereto by William de Aubervil, and Maud, his wife, which Maud was daughter to Ranulf de Glanvil, and belonged to the land that the said Ranulf held of Thomas Noell; at the Norwich taxation it was valued at ten marks, and in the Lincoln at thirteen marks; it was appropriated to that convent about 1150 by John Oxford, bishop of Norwich, without any vicar to be endowed, they being obliged to find a stipendiary chaplain only, who was to administer the sacrament, and to perform all duties to the parishioners of that portion only; this was confirmed by several archbishops of Canterbury, and by the bishops of Norwich, and thus it continued till 1454, when it was disappropriated by consent of all parties, and consolidated to the other portions, the abbot of Bury giving the prior security that the future rectors should for ever pay to that priory a yearly pension of 3s. 4d. a year, clear of all service due from the said portion. The fourth portion was called Semere*, and contained the other half of Semere that lay in Dis hundred, and was sometimes called Matthew's Portion, from Matthew, who was rector of it at the Norwich taxation, when it was taxed at six marks; it was afterwards named Alexander's Portion, but most commonly John's Portion,

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tion,

* The Mere, from a large mere in it.

tion, from John de Hemenhale, who was rector of it at the Lincoln taxation, in which it was valued at six marks and an half; this portion was of the smallest value, because it was chargeable with a pension (valued in the Norwich taxation at 8s. and in the Lincoln at 10s.) payable every year to the prior of St. Faith's, at Horsham: concerning this pension we find in a register formerly belonging to Bury abbey, a grant made by Raymund, prior of St. Faith's, to sir Ralph Hemenhale, parson of the fourth part of Dickleburgh, and his successors for ever, of two parts of the tithes of the demesnes, formerly of sir William de Cheyney, of the fee of his barony of Horsford, in this town, by the authority and consent of Ralph de Walpole, bishop of Norwich, and his chapter, for the annual payment of 10s. sterling, which tithes were given by the said William to that monastery, all which demesnes, with their several quantities, names, and tenants, are recited therein. The deed was sealed by the bishop, the abbot, the prior of St. Faith's, the rector, and the prior of Norwich and for this pension the prior was to allow and pay 12d. tenths. The two portions, called Fouldon, and Semere, were consolidated in 1429; and in 1449 they were consolidated to the portion in the fields. In 1454 the appropriation of Long-Mere portion being resigned, it became one rectory, chargeable with the annual pensions of 3s. 4d. to the prior of Butley, 10s. to the prior of St. Faith's, and 24s. 5d. ob. to the abbot of Bury, and hath so continued ever since.

This advowson, with the manor, now called the Rectory Manor, was procured by Syward, a monk of Bury, at which time it belonged to the manor of Tivetshall, and with that was given to this monastery, there being at that time only one chaplain, or parish priest;

priest; but before the conquest the abbot had given the manor to the church, and incoffed it in two priests, who held it at the survey; these, with the parochial priests, made three portions, all which were in the presentation of the abbot of Bury till the dissolution, each rector having a house with a carucate of land, a third part of the manor, (which they divided) and the tithes of their separate portions; at the dissolution the advowson went to the crown, and was granted in 1536 to Thomas and James Bacon, esqrs. and the heirs of Thomas. In 1547 they aliened it to Nicholas Bacon, esq. and he in 1550 to Thomas Godsalve, who in 1557 sold it to William Mingay, and he soon after to Stephen Lacy, gent. and he to John Whitman, who in 1567 aliened it to Charles le Grice, esq. who kept it but a little while; for in 1570 it belonged to John and Thomas Whipple, and John Whipple, of Pulham-market, in which family it continued some time; for in 1603 William and Thomas Whipple were patrons, who left it to their daughters; the one married to Robert Boiens, the other to George Gawdy, both which held it in their wives right in 1632. from whom it came to Thomas Buxton, who at his death left it to Thomas, his son, and he dying without issue, left it to his wife, and her heirs, and soon after it belonged to one Congham, of Wells, of whom George Chamberlain, D. D. fellow of Trinity College, in Cambridge, purchased it, and presented his nephew, Samuel Needham, to it; after whose death he gave it to the senior fellow of Trinity College, for ever. The rector hath a good house, and eighty acres of land adjoining to it, together with the Rectory Manor, the custom of which is, that the copyhold descends to the youngest son, and the fine is at the lord's will. It is in the liberty

of his grace the duke of Norfolk, and is valued in the king's books at 28l.

The first portion, called Fouldon, or the portion in the marsh, and Semere portion, were consolidated October 25, 1429; and December 13, 1454. they were consolidated to the second portion, or the portion in the fields. The Rev. John Bulman held the whole benefice till 1497; he was secretary to bishop Walter Lyhert, rector of Hevingham, prebendary of the college of Stoke-Clare, and rector of Rollesby, (for which church he resigned this): he willed to be buried in this chancel, under a black marble stone prepared, with an inscription thereon put, with mention of John Bulman, his father, and Beatrix, his mother, who are there buried; he gave divers vestments to keep his and their *objets*, and a pair of silver candlesticks, weighing sixty ounces, a little silver cross, gilt, a gilt silver cup, two osculatories of silver, two crewets of silver, his best missal, altar-clothes, &c. and ordered a priest to officiate five years after his death for his and his father's and mother's souls, and his good lords, Thomas Browne, and Walter Lyhert, formerly bishops of Norwich, Richard Hodge, William Ivot, and Margaret, his wife, and Stephen Brasier, and all his benefactors.

This rectory is thus described in the bishop's register: "Dickleburgh two portions, Semere, and the Fields, with other two portions, viz. Foulden and Henry's Dickleburgh, with Semere and the Fields, consolidated August 23, 1430: the same with the other two portions, consolidated December 13, 1454." The Rev. Robert Bendyshe was presented in 1755 by the master and fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge.——£220.

In 1643 Christopher Bernard " was dispossessed
 " by the earl of Manchester, who tendered him the
 " covenant, and offered him to keep his place if he
 " would take it, both which he generously refused,
 " and by necessary consequence brought on himself
 " the common calamities and fate which then at-
 " tended loyalty and fidelity to his majesty; for his
 " house was plundered and rifled of a great deal of
 " plate, linen, and other goods; he was also seized
 " and dragged away towards Norwich castle, but by
 " his excellent life and doctrine he had so much
 " recommended himself to his parishioners, that
 " they thought a greater judgment could not befall
 " them than to lose him, and so by consent they
 " followed the party that had him in custody, and
 " rescued him: they also gave this further testimony
 " of their affection towards him, that when the vil-
 " lains had designed to plunder his house a second
 " time, unknown to him, they voluntarily went, and
 " by force secured the remainder of his goods in
 " their own houses, and even the very women and
 " children assisted in this perilous undertaking, to
 " the manifest hazard of their safety, perhaps of
 " their lives, if it had been discovered. He had
 " at the time of his sufferings a wife, and at least
 " nine young children, which helped to compleat
 " his misery, and sufficiently aggravated the barba-
 " rities which were exercised upon him; 'tis remark-
 " able he had always a firm persuasion of his ma-
 " jesty's restoration, which he afterwards lived to see,
 " and was himself one of the first ministers restored
 " in this county, after which he enjoyed his rectory
 " twenty years, and having been admitted about the
 " year 1620, and not dying till 1680, (in the 84th
 " year of his age) he must in all have been rector of
 " it near sixty years*."

Thus

* Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy, part 2, fol. 204.

Thus far Mr. Walker, in which account there are some small errors, all which may be corrected by the inscription on his stone in the chancel: he died October 5, 1680, aged 83.

The church is a regular building, having a nave, and two aisles, with a chapel at the east end of each of them; the chancel, vestry, and south porch, are all covered with lead, and a square tower and five bells at its west end; it is dedicated to the honor of All Saints, and had a guild held in the south aisle chapel, which acknowledged St. Peter and Paul for their patrons. The Guild-hall now stands on the west side of the church-yard, and is used as a town-house.

The arms of bishop Lyhart, England, and Wakering, were in this chancel, as Mr. Anslis's manuscripts tell us.

In the upper windows of the church there still remain the cross swords, and cross keys, the emblem of St. Peter and Paul, the patrons of the guild, the emblems of the Trinity, and of the Sacrament, the instruments of the Passion, the arms of Bury Abbey, of the East Angles, and of St. George, and also an imperfect coat of the arms of the bishopric.

On a stone in the middle aisle near the pulpit, is Jarnegan's arms, for—*Mrs. Elizabeth Whipple, wife unto Thomas Whipple, gent. and daughter of John Jarnegan, of Belton, in Somerlee, esq. son of Sir John Jarnegan, knt. she died September 4, 1617, aged 65.*

A black marble in the chancel, for—*Maria, wife of John Whisfield, rector here.*

On the north side of the chancel is a noble mural monument, of various sorts of marble, with a lady holding a book, and under her the following inscription: (*Le Neve's Monuments*, vol. 2, p. 42.)—
Hereunder lieth buried the body of Dame Frances Playters, the daughter and heirefs of Charles le Grys, of Billingford, in Norfolk, esq. she married Sir William Playters, of Sotterley, in Suffolk, knt. and bart. some time one of the deputy lieutenants, and vice admiral of the said county, and justice of the peace and coram, and colonel of a regiment of foot, 'till turn'd out of all by the then rebellious parliament, whereof he had the misfortune to be a member. She had issue by him only Thomas, who married with Rebecca, the daughter and coheirefs of Thomas Chapman, of Woormly, in the county of Hertford, esq. which said Sir Thomas was a great traveller before and after marriage, with his lady some time beyond the seas with him, a learned scholar, an exact linguist, expert in all arts and knowledge, of rare temper and courage, and of great esteem in most courts in Christendom; high sheriff for the county of Suffolk by commission from his majesty of blessed memory, anno 1646, till forced by that fatal parliament to flee to the king at Oxford, where, by commission from his majesty, he raised a regiment of horse, wherewith he performed remarkable service, till his majesty's forces were totally ruined, and then he departed the kingdom, arriving in Cicilia, where, by commission from that viceroy, he had command of a squadron of six ships, against all enemies to the crown of Spain, which being prepared, he put to sea, and performed many gallant services, much to the honor of the Spanish flag. In July, 1651, he put into the port of Messina with a very rich prize, and posted to the court at Palermo, where he met with an honorable reception, for the several good services he had performed; but at four days end he there fell ill of a violent fever, whereof within eight days he died, aged about 35 years, and by the prince's order had an honorable interment, and much lamented

mented there, but much greater cause at home, leaving no issue, but a sorrowful widow, and sad childless parents; the said Dame Frances died at Billingsford hall the 9th of September, 1659, from whence by her own desire she was brought and interred in this parish to which she often manifested a charitable affection. — On the top are the arms of Playters, impaling le Grice; Playters with Ulster arms, and his quarterings, with le Grice, and his quarterings.

On the east side of this monument is an ancient painting on the wall, half of which hath been lately renewed, viz. Christ bearing his cross; the other part, that is still obscure, we take to be Christ rising from his sepulchre.

The plate belonging to the altar is very fine; the flaggon holds about two quarts, on which is this:—*A gift to the church of Dickleburgh, anno 1715.*—The cup is a very good one, and was purchased by the parish in queen Elizabeth's time, together with a neat small falver for its cover; on it is this:—*Dyckelbourgh, T. F. W. A. Remember God.*—There is also a good falver, on which,—*Tho. Buxton, gent. et Erix: uxor de Dickleburgh, Nois: 1697.*—An offering plate of silver, on which,—*Ex Dono Aliciæ Rant.*

The town lands* were given by John Billorne, chaplain, anno 1483, and William Hyll, of Dickleburgh, anno 1484, and were all settled by deed of feoffment, dated Feb. 10, 1500, to the use of all the inhabitants of the town, and parish of Dickleburgh, as well those that inhabit in the greater part of it, which is in the hundred of Dis, as those that inhabit in the hamlets of Langmere and Lincroft, which lie

* They lie in Thorpe-Abbots and Tivetshall.

lie in the hundred of Earsham, towards the payment of tallages and fifteenths of our sovereign lord the king, on this condition, that the sixth part of the profits shall go towards discharging the hamlets aforesaid; this land now belongs to the parish.

They have also a pightle of one acre, called Dovehouse pightle, and a close of two acres, called the Town-close, both which belonged to the guild, and were purchased by the parish with the Guild hall.

There is a gift also of 20s. a year, called Chapman's-Dole, paid out of lands in Burston, which was given by Ralph Chapman, *anno* 1618.

The EARL'S, or DICKEBURGH-HALL MANOR, was the most considerable in this town, (except that which was granted by the abbot to the rectory) though its beginning was very small, as we learn from Doomsday-book; but soon after the conquest it was enlarged by the abbot's enfeoffing the earl of Norfolk in this part, and all those lands, services, &c. which belonged to the abbot's capital manor, and were not granted with the Rectory Manor, and in this family it continued till the death of Roger Bigot, the last earl of that line, who held it in 1306, at which time it was held of Robert Fitz-Walter, lord of Difs hundred, at 29. per ann. rent paid to his hundred of Difs, to which the leet of this part always did, and now doth belong. This Roger died in the 35th of Edward I. without issue, upon which it came to the crown, and was granted in the 6th of Edward II. to Thomas de Brotherton, earl marshal, with the barony of the Bigots.

In 351 John lord Segrave, of Folkstone, in Kent, had it in right of Margaret, his wife, daughter of Thomas

Thomas de Brotherton. In 1360 Edward Montague, (or de Monte Acuto) and Alice, his wife, one of the daughters and heiresses of Thomas de Brotherton, held one moiety as part of the barony of that earl, and Joan, their daughter, then wife of William Ufford, was their heiress. In 1371 Walter Manney, knut. held the other moiety in right of Margaret, his wife, late wife of John lord Segrave, and one of the heiresses of Thomas de Brotherton. In 1381 William de Ufford, earl of Suffolk, died seised of one part; and in 1399 Thomas de Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, who had been banished for speaking disgracefully of Richard II. died in banishment at Venice, of the plague, in his return from Jerusalem, seised of this among other manors, in 1406, and it was after held by John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, who in 1432 held it as of Forncet manor; and in this family it continued till the male issue failed, and then it descended to the Howard family, and continued in it till seised by queen Elizabeth in 1572, upon the duke of Norfolk's attainder; notwithstanding which, in 1576, November 17, William Dyx, of Wickmere, esq. and William Canterell, of Norwich, gent. (as trustees to the Norfolk family) lett to Thomas Whipple, of Dickleburgh, gent. the liberty of fishing and fowling in Semere-moor, and the Damm's-dyche in Dickleburgh, that is as much as to that manor belonged, for twenty one years, at 3s. 4d. a year. In 1604 John and Thomas Holland kept their first court as trustees to that family, and some time after sold it, with their consents, and by their order.

The customs of this manor are these:—"The eldest son is heir, the fine is at the lord's will, it gives a third dower, the tenants cannot waste their copyhold houses,

houses, nor fell timber upon the copyhold, or waste, without licence."

There were formerly three other manors, all which belonged to Semere, and are now fallen into Dickleburgh-hall manor. The chief of Semere was at the conquest in the abbot of Bury, who held it as a manor, worth at that time 40s. it being a mile and quarter long, and as much broad, and paid 6d. gelt. This was soon after the conquest divided into three parts, the first of which belonged to the Glanvills. In the latter end of the reign of Henry III. John de Somery* held in Semere the fourth part of a fee: it continued in this family till 1401, and not long after was joined to the Earl's manor.

After various changes the Earl's, or Dickleburgh manor, was purchased in the year 1733 by the late Horatio lord Walpole, of Woolterton, and his son, Horatio lord Walpole, is the present lord, (1781.)

The second part of Semere was in the Conqueror's time held by Walter, under Robert Malet, lord of Eye, to which honor it was appendant for some time; and about the year 1200 sir William Cheyney had it, as part of his barony of Horsford, from which time we meet with no account of it till 1370, when it belonged to Robert Bacon, who was outlawed for felony; he is said to hold it of Edmund Ufford le Cousyn, by knight's service, as of his barony of Horsford. Joan, wife of the said Robert, in 1414 had licence granted her by the bishop of Norwich, "to have mass said to her in any decent place." These licences were then usually granted to aged people that could not come to church, or to people of

* The family of the Semeres, or Somerys, are very ancient.

of distinction that lived at a distance, in which case the priest always had a consecrated portable altar to officiate at. John Shelton conveyed it by fine to Henry Whipple, in whom it was joined to the earl's manor.

MANTELAKE'S, or MANCLERK'S MANOR, was the third manor in Semere, and had its name from some of its former lords. In 1191 Roger de Dicclesburc had it, after which it passed through many hands, till in 1598 Thomas Spooner, gent. sold it to William Holmes, and Thomas Edwards, and then it extended into Seething, Mundham, and Loddon; and soon after, in 1687, it was lost in the earl's manor, to which it had some time been joined.

Diccles-Burc, or Burgh, may take its name from some remarkable Saxon that settled here, and raised a fortification of some sort or other to defend himself and his adherents against the insults of the Danes.

In 1603 here were 224 communicants; and in 1735 about eighty houses, and 400 inhabitants; it paid 3l. 16s. tenths; the parliament valuation was 1032l. and the present one is, for Langmere part 335l. and for Dickleburgh part 668l.

In 1428 the abbot of Bury was taxed at 31s. 2d. ob. for his temporals in this town, it being part of the land belonging to his manor of Tivetshall, that extended hither, together with a tenement, given to the abbey in the year 1120 by Thomas Noell; the customs and services remitted by the abbot to Henry Freeman, and Mauthew de Cambridge, are said to be these, viz. that the tenants of the rector's manor were obliged to do suit of court every fifteen days, at Tivetshall court, and to pay aid and tallage whenever it

it was laid on the town of Tivetshall, and to carry part of the abbot's wine and board from Norwich, or Yarmouth, to Palgrave-bridge, and to hedge and ditch round Tivetshall stack-yards, and to plough one day, and reap another, the abbot finding them diet.

In 1274 the rectors had assize of bread and beer of all their tenants allowed them upon a *Quo Warranto*.

Humphry Rant, of Dickleburgh, esq. by will, dated May 13. 1726, gave 35s. a year to the poor, as long as William, his son, lived, in these words: "*Item*, I give to the poore of Dickleburgh, and Langmere, the sum of 11. 15s. to be paid yearly, and upon New Year's Day, as Chapman's Dole is, by my son, William, during his life;" he was grandfather to the present Mr. Rant.

The house, called Dickleburgh-hall, is a good old seat, having about 230 acres of land belonging to it, and is owned by Henry Harold, esq. of Crowfield-hall, in Suffolk.—*Blomefield*.

The commons are Semere-green, which contains about sixty acres; on this Pulham-Market inter-commons, as far as Pulham-bridge; Dickleburgh-moor contains about eighty acres, and Pound, or High-Green, about fifty acres, on both which Dickleburgh commons solely; and whereas it is said in Norwich Doomſday-book, that all this town is the king's, (*Tota Villa est Regalis*) when the crown was never concerned in the manors, it will be proper to observe, that it is meant of the jurisdiction and special privileges which the crown had in this and many other towns, all which were granted by Edward IV. to John duke of Norfolk, and is now in the present duke, whose liberty extends all over this town.

The village of Dickleburgh lies on the turnpike road from Norwich, seventeen miles, to Scole three.

DISS, DYSSE, or DICE, in the time of the Confessor extended into Suffolk, nay the town itself was then in Hertefmere hundred, in that county, as we learn from Doomsday-book, where we find that it was in king Edward's possession as demefne of the crown, there being at that time a church and twenty-four acres of glebe; that the whole was worth 15l. per ann. which at the Conqueror's time was doubled, it being then estimated at 30l. with the soc of the whole hundred and half belonging to it; it was then a league long, and half a one broad, and paid 4d. Dane gelt, by which it appears that it was not so large in its bounds as it now is, which is easily accounted for from the same record; for Watlingset manor, as it is there called, which was as large as Difs, and seemingly fuller of inhabitants, as we may judge by the gelt, or tax, that it paid, was soon after quite lost in Difs, to which it was appendant at that time. This was afterwards called Walcote, and includes part of Heywood, as appears from its joining to Burston, into which town this manor extended.

The manor thus joined, with the advowson and hundred, continued in the crown till Henry I.* granted them to sir Rich. de Lucy, a Norman knight, a man of great renown in those days; the record, called *Testa de Nevile*, says, that it was not known whether it was rendered unto him as his inheritance,

or

* The manor was then valued at 51l. per annum, and at the time of the grant the king reserved a rent of 40d. per annum, to be paid at Norwich castle.

or for his service, but without doubt it was for the latter, it having been always demesne of the crown. This Richard was governor of Falais, in Normandy, in the 3d year of king Stephen, which he manfully defended against Jeffery earl of Anjou, who had besieged it; he was a great instrument towards the agreement between that king and Henry II. and had the Tower of London, and castle of Winchester, put into his hands, by the advice of the whole clergy, upon his swearing to deliver them up at Stephen's death to king Henry; all which he faithfully accomplished, which so far advanced him in that king's favor, that he made him chief justice of England, and in his absence he was appointed governor of the realm, during which time he took prisoner, in a pitched battle near Fornham, in Suffolk, Robert earl of Leicester, together with his Amazonian proud countess, Petronell, or Parnell, and put to the sword above 10,000 Flemings, which the said Robert had levied and sent forth to the depopulation of his country; all, or the most part of which, were buried in and about Fornham in 1173; their sepulchres are now to be seen near a place called Rymer-house, on the right hand of the road leading from Thetford to Bury, and are now called the Seven Hills, though there are many more; but seven of them being much larger than the rest, are particularly taken notice of by those that pass this way, under which most probably the commanders were buried: this memorable battle was fought in this field. But to our purpose, it appears he had two sons, Jeffery, or Godfrey, afterwards bishop of Winchester, who in 1204 died without issue, as also did Herbert de Lucy, the second son, so that the inheritance came to his daughters; Maud, the eldest, married Walter Fitz-Robert, the progenitor of the Fitz-Walters, to whom he gave two parts of the hundred, manor, and market, of Dis

with her in marriage. Aveline, the second married Richard Riperijs, (or Rivers) of Stanford-Rivers. Rose, or Rohais, the third, to Richard de Warren, natural son of king John. Dionisia, a fourth daughter, married Arnold de Mounteny, knt. who had with her the other third part of the manor, hundred, and market, so that from that time there were two manors by the division of this third part, which was Walcote, and part of Heywood.

In 1179 Richard de Lucy, chief justice of England, deceased, and was buried in the choir of the abbey church at Lesnes, in Kent, which he had founded; and where he had taken upon him the habit of a cauen-regular the year before.

From this Richard the manor came to fir Walter Fitz-Robert, son of Robert de Tonebrigge, or Tunbridge, the fifth son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, surnamed de Tonebrigge, the first earl of Clare; who came in with the Conqueror, of whose gift he had the castle and town of Clare, in Suffolk, with Tunbridge, in Kent, and divers other great lordships in England. This earl was son of Gilbert, surnamed Crispin, earl of Brion, in Normandy, and son of Jeffery, natural son to Richard I. of that name, duke of Normandy; he bore, as the Fitz-Walters ever after did, the earl of Clare's shield varied; he had two wives, Maud de Bocham, or de Bohun, and Maud, daughter of fir Richard de Lucy, as aforesaid, in whose right he had this manor, to which he first obtained a charter for a fair. He was justice itinerant in Norfolk and Suffolk, and died in 1198, being buried in the midst of the choir of the priory church of Little Dunmow, in Essex, of which his father was first founder; he was sometimes called Walter of Clare, sometimes

sometimes Robert Fitz-Walter, but mostly Walter Fitz-Robert ; he left Robert *the Valiant* his heir.

Sir Robert Fitz Walter, knt. commonly called Robert the Valiant, had two wives ; Gunnora, daughter and heiress of Philip de Valoines, and Rohesia, or Rose, who survived him, and had the manors of Difs, Hempnall, (which always went with Difs) Theye, and Difs hundred, in dower ; he it was that first divided this manor, by giving a moiety of the two parts which he possessed to sir Gilbert Pecche, knt. with his daughter, Alice, in free marriage, with the third part of the hundred and market, and so there branched a third manor, which was called Pecche's fee ; this Robert was leader of those barons that rose against king John, the beginning of which was on this occasion, as the book of Dunmow informs us :

“ About the year 1213 there arose a great discord
“ between king John and his barons, because of Ma-
“ tilda, surnamed the Fair, daughter of Robert Fitz-
“ Walter, whom the king unlawfully loved, but
“ could not obtain her, nor her father's consent
“ thereunto ; whereupon (and for divers other like
“ causes) ensued war throughout the whole realm ;
“ the king banished the said Fitz-Walter, among
“ others, and caused his castle, called Baynard, and
“ other his houses, to be spoiled, which being done,
“ he sent a messenger unto Matilda the Fair, about
“ his old suit in love, and because she would not
“ agree to his wicked motion, the messenger poisoned
“ a boiled, or potched egg, against she was hungry,
“ and gave it unto her, whereof she died in 1213.”
Her tomb was standing between two pillars in the
priory church of Little Dunmow when Mr. Weaver
published his book.

In the year following her banished father was restored to the king's favor upon this occasion: " King John being then in France with a great army, it happened that a truce was taken between the two kings, of England and France, for the term of five years; and a river, or arm of the sea, being betwixt either host, there was a knight of the English host that cried to them of the other side, willing some one of their knights to come and just a course or two with him; whereupon, without stay, Robert Fitz-Walter being on the French part, made himself ready, ferried over, and got on horseback, and shewed himself ready to the face of his challenger, whom at the first course he struck so hard with his great spear, that horse and man fell to the ground, and when his spear was broken, he went back again to the king of France, which king John seeing, by God's tooth, quoth he, (for such was his usual oath) he were a king indeed that had such a knight. The friends of Robert hearing these words, kneeled down and said, O king, he is your knight, it is Robert Fitz-Walter; whereupon the next day he was sent for, and restored to the king's favor, by which means peace was concluded, and he received his livings, and had licence to repair his castle of Baynard, and all his other castles." Notwithstanding this, he afterwards joined the barons that stood against the same king for their liberties, during his whole reign, and at the king's death, by his advice, there was an agreement made between them and the succeeding king, from which time he was always in great favor both in court and country. Holinshed, that faithful historian, gives him this character: that he was " both excellent in counsel, and valiant in war." He went with Ralph earl of Chester's army to aid the Christians against the Infidels, who had besieged the city of Damietta, in Egypt, where

where he performed noble achievements: " After
 " which this strenuous knight, this Mars of men, this
 " marshal of God's army and holy church, (for so he
 " was stiled by the common multitude) lived in all affluence of riches and honor till 1235, when he
 " died, and was buried by his daughter in the said
 " church:" Holingshed says, "*anno* 1234, in Advent, died the noble baron, the lord Fitz-Walter."

Robert Fitz-Walter, his son, often called Walter Fitz-Robert, succeeded; he was a man of renown in those days, and in great favor with his prince; he inherited the lands of his father, except this manor, and those of Hempnall and Theye, which were held in dower by Rose, his step-mother, who possessed them to 1256, from which time he held them, and dying seized in 1258, was buried in the conventual church of Dunmow, leaving Robert, his son and heir, who was knighted in 1274, and had a great part of his possessions in his own hands before that time, though this manor, with Hempnall and Theye, were in the hands of Stephen Fitz-Walter, his uncle, as his guardian and trustee. This Stephen in 1286 claimed a market every Wednesday and Friday, with all rights belonging to a market, and it was allowed in *cire*. It seems that Henry I. established this market, for he granted it to sir Ricard de Lucy along with the manor; at this time Stephen held a third part of the hundred, which was worth five marks yearly, and Ernald de Montiniaco (Arnold Mounteny) held of him another third part, which was worth 60s. per annum; and Richard de Boyland held of the said Stephen another part, which was worth 28s. per annum. This Stephen, as capital lord of the whole, paid into the Exchequer a rent of 40d. a year, being entitled in his part to view of frank-pledge, assize of

bread and ale, infangthesf, waif, and all other liberties which belonged to a hundred, all which soon after came to Robert Fitz-Walter aforesaid. In 1293 he was summoned to attend Edward I. into Gascoigne, in order to recover his inheritance from the French king, to which place he went in the retinue of Edmund earl of Lancaster. In 1296 he was in the Welsh expedition; and in 1299 in the Scotch wars. It was this man that aliened Bainsford-castle in London, and Montfitcher tower, to the archbishop of Canterbury, reserving his barony that belonged to it to himself and his heirs; he was the first of this family that stiled himself lord of Woodham, in Essex, where he had a seat and a fine park: he had two wives; Devorgil, daughter and coheiress of John de Burgh, son of Hubert de Burgh, late earl of Kent, and chief justice of England; and Eleanor, daughter of earl Ferrers, by whom he had Robert, his son, who succeeded him: in this year he obtained a charter of confirmation for a fair every year at his manor of Difs, upon the eve, day, and morrow, after the feast of St. Simon and Jude, and three days following; he was one of those parliamentary barons that sealed the letter to the pope, *anno* 1301, "denying that the kingdom of Scotland was his fee, or that he had any jurisdiction in temporal affairs:" he sealed with his paternal coat, supported by two harpies, which seal of his we have seen affixed to several deeds, and in particular to a grant made in 1298, to William Partekyn, of Prilleston, (now Billingsford) dyer, by which he granted "for his homage and service, and half a mark of silver in hand paid, two messuages in Difs, with liberty of washing his wool and cloths in Difs-meer whenever he would, with this reserve, that the gross dye should be first washed off, and that he should not suffer the drain of his dying-office to run into the meer." The escheat rolls of the

the 19th of Edward II. sav, that he held Difs at three knights fees, and Hempnall by barony: he renounced all the temporal matters, and then entered himself a friar minor in the friary at Colchester, which he himself in 1309 had founded, and there took upon him the habit of a religious votary, where he spent the rest of his days. In the catalogue of emperors, kings, princes, and other potent persons, that have entered into this religious order, this Robert was one. It seems as if the church of Difs was built by this man, his arms cut in stone still remaining several times on the south porch.

Robert Fitz-Walter, his son, married Joan de Moulton, who survived him, and had for her dower an assignation of the manors of Difs, and Hempnall, in Norfolk, &c. In 1361 this Joan purchased of Nicholas de Walcote one messuage, eighty acres of land, sixty acres of meadow, six acres of pasture; four acres of wood, and 14s. per annum quit-rent, in Difs, Frenze, and Burston, which were added to the capital manor, and was part of Walcote manor that was granted by one of the Mountenys to William de Walcote, the father, or grandfather, of this Nicholas. She it was also that brought the castle of Egremont, in Cumberland, and a third part of that manor, and many others, to this family. This Robert was in the expedition made into Scotland in 1326, and died the year following, leaving John, his son, possessed of two parts of his estate; the third being held by the said Joan in dower; he was a ward of Henry de Percy; but in the 9th of Edward III. by the king's special favor, his homage was accepted, and livery made to him; Difs manor then was valued at 31l. Hempnall at 48l. Fincham at 6l. 13s. 4d. He was in the French wars in 1359, being one of those appointed to accompany sir Walter Manny in that
skirmish

skirmish at the barriers of Paris, the duke of Normandy then lying in that city, and was then knighted: he married Eleanor, daughter of Henry lord Percy, his guardian, was summoned to parliament from the 15th to the 34th of Edward III. exclusive, and died in 1360, leaving Walter, his son and heir, Joan, his mother, surviving him; she died in 1362, whereupon Walter, her grandson, was found to be next heir, this manor being then held at three fees, as of the barony of Bainard-castle.

Walter lord Fitz-Walter making proof of his age in 1362, and doing his homage, had livery of all his lands. In the 44th of Edward III. he was in that expedition made into Gascoigne, and there reputed one of the most expert soldiers in the whole realm; but being taken prisoner in those wars, was forced to mortgage his castle and lordship of Egremont for 1000l. towards raising the fine for his redemption. In 1372, an invasion being feared from the French, having raised what power he could for the defence of Essex, he was commanded to repair into Norfolk, for the safeguard of those parts. In 1379 he procured the king's charter for a weekly market every Friday, at his lordship of Hempnall, in Norfolk, and a fair yearly; soon after, in 1381, he did great service in Essex against the rebels under Jack Straw, by suppressing those that endeavoured to make head there. Many other great and noble exploits of this man may be seen in the first volume of *Dug. Baron.* fol. 222, and in the second volume of *Holinshed's Chronicle*, fol. 405, 419. He was lieutenant to Thomas duke of Gloucester, constable of England in the great cause between the lords Lovel and Morley, for the arms of Burnel, in the court of chivalry, in 1384 and 1386, in which year he died, in Spain, on Wednesday before St. Michael, being
one

one of those that accompanied John duke of Lancaster, king of Castile and Leon; in his expedition thither, where the English, not able to bear the heat of the country, died in great numbers: "Among
 " others there died before the breaking up of the
 " camp one of the greatest barons of all the com-
 " pany, the lord Fitz-Walter." There is an ancient deed of this Walter in French, by which, as lord of Disf, he granted a messuage and eight acres of land to one William Moundary; it was dated at Henham, in the 40th of Edward III. to which his seal was fastened, being his paternal coat, and an estoil between two plumes for his crest, circumscribed *Sigillum Walteri Filij-Walteri*.

His son, Robert, married Philippa, daughter and coheirefs of John de Mohun, lord of Dunster, and died before his father, without issue; Philippa, after his death, married again to Edward Plantagenet, duke of York, and earl of Rutland, who held Disf manor, hundred, and market, together with Hempnall, till he was killed at Agincourt, and from his death she held them till 1431, in which year she died seised; and sir Walter Fitz-Walter, brother and heir of sir Robert Fitz-Walter, first husband of the said Philippa, had livery of the manors of Disf and Hempnall, with their appurtenances, all which (except the advowsons) were held in dower by the said Philippa; but they went with the rest of the estate of the said Robert, and had been in possession of the said Walter ever since 1389, when he had livery of them, as heir to Walter, his father, and Robert, his elder brother; and accordingly, we find, he presented to Disf in 1390. This Walter married Joan, daughter of sir John Devereux, knt. he died in 1408, leaving Humphry lord Fitz-Walter, his eldest son, under age at his father's death, and was a ward of Henry V. who
 granted

granted the custody of him to John de Beaufort, earl of Somerset; the earl dying soon after, left him to his executor, Henry Beaufort, bishop of Winchester; but dying before he came of age, he never was in possession of his inheritance, but it went to his brother, Walter Fitz-Walter, who was under age, and had not possession of his estate till 1428, at which time he had livery thereof, but not of Dis and Hempnall, till 1431, when Philippa died, who had held them all this time in dower. This Walter was one of the most active men in the French wars, in the time of that victorious prince, Henry V. who in the 8th year of his reign, for the great services he had done him, gave all the lands and lordships which sir John Cheney, knt. deceased, held in the Duchy of Normandy, which reverted to the crown for default of heirs male of the said John, and were of the value of 5000 scutes. He was then a very young man, not being of full age till 1422, though in 1421 he was taken prisoner by the French, but soon got released; he died about 1432, and was buried in Dunmow priory. Elizabeth, his wife, survived him, who held in dower Hempnall and Dis manors, with the hundred of Dis; the manors of Shimpling, and Thorne, in Suffolk; of Wodeham-Walter, Henham, Leiden, Vitring, Dunmow *Parva*, Burnham, Winbush, and Shering, in Essex; she after married William Mafsey, and died June 14, 1463, leaving Anne, wife of Thomas Ratcliff, esq. and Elizabeth, (then single) her daughters and heiresses; Anne had no issue, but Elizabeth afterwards married sir John Ratcliff, knt. brother of the said Thomas, who was soon after summoned to parliament, as lord Fitz-Walter, and in right of his wife enjoyed all the honors and possessions of this noble family.

This

This family, as Mr. le Neve thinks, came first into this county in 1411, when John Ratcliff, esq. father of this sir John Ratcliff, married Cecily, the widow of sir John de Harling, by which he much advanced his family; this sir John after he was lord Fitz-Walter sided with Edward IV. against Henry VI. and being by him appointed to keep the passage at Ferrybridge, which lord Clifford resolved to gain by surprise, was there slain, in 1460, as he arose from his bed, unarmed, with a poll ax only in his hand, in order to appease the fray (as he thought) among his own men, leaving his estate in possession of Elizabeth, his wife, and John Ratcliff, afterwards lord Fitz-Walter, his son, all which the said John enjoyed till 1493, when he was attainted of treason, and being apprehended, was brought into England, with several other knights, among which was sir Robert Ratcliff, who was beheaded; but lord Fitz-Walter was pardoned: after that he went to Calais, and being there laid in hold, was beheaded, because he would have corrupted the keepers with many promises, to have escaped out of the same, intending (as was thought) to have gone to Perkin, at that time a Pretender to the crown against Henry VII. who at the time of his attainder seized upon all his revenues, and among them, on this manor, hundred, and advowson, together with the manor of Watton, or Cock-freet, and Walcote, in Dils, both which were become members of the great manor; and in 1498 the king presented here by reason of the forfeiture and attainder.

They remained in the crown till Henry VIII. restored them to Robert Ratcliff, son of the said John, who was in so great favor with that king, that he not only restored him in blood and estate, but made him knight of the garter, lord Fitz-Walter, Egremont, and Burnel, and afterwards, June 15, 1525, created him viscount

viscount Fitz-Walter, and December 8, 1529, earl of Suffex: he had three wives; by Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Stafford, duke of Buckingham, he had Henry lord Fitz-Walter, who succeeded him; he died at Chelsea the 28th of November, 1542, and is buried in the church of Boreham, in London diocese, with two other earls, his son, and grandson, under a sumptuous monument.

Henry Ratcliff, earl of Suffex, viscount Fitz-Walter, lord Egremont, and Burnel, held his first court in 1542; he was in great favor with queen Mary, and of her privy council, and by her grant, dated November 2, in the 1st year of her reign, had "Liberty
 " licens and pardon to were his cappe, coyf, or
 " night cappe, or twoo of them, at his pleasor, as
 " well in our presens as in the presens of any other
 " person or persons within this our relme, or any
 " other place of our dominion, during his life." He died at Westminster, February 17, 1556, leaving issue by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, Thomas the third earl of Suffex, and Henry the fourth earl.

Thomas the third earl in 1557 was seised of Disf, Attleburgh, and several other lordships in Norfolk; he died June 9, 1583, leaving Frances, his widow, this manor, and great part of the estate, for life, and at her death to Robert lord Fitz-Walter, his son, who died before her, so that it came to Henry Ratcliff, his brother, who died seised the 14th of December, 1593, when it descended to Robert Ratcliff, his son, who in 1621 sold it to Frances Shute, widow, and her heirs, who held a court in 1622. In 1635 it was in John Duke, esq. of Worlingham, in Suffolk, who about 1649 left it to Parnell and Ann Duke, his daughters,
 who

who kept their first court in 1656: this John sold the advowson from the manor.

Parnell married Roger Pepys, of Impington, esq. who afterwards had Ann's part also, and at his death left it to Talbot Pepys, esq. his son, who married Hannah, daughter of John Man, alderman of Norwich; she out-lived him, and held the manor and hundred till 1694, when she died, and left it to Roger Pepys, her son and heir, on whose death Mrs. Ann Pepys, his widow, was lady thereof, in 1735.

PECCHÉ'S MANOR, now called HEYWOOD-HALL, had its rise out of the capital manor; sir Robert Fitz-Walter, who held two thirds of the hundred and town of Difs, granted one third thereof with his daughter, Alice, in marriage to sir Gilbert Pecche, knt. lord of Brunne, in Cambridgeshire, upon whose death it descended to sir Hammond Pecche, knt. his son, who died in 1240, leaving several children; Gilbert was his eldest son and heir, but this was given to Robert Pecche, his fourth son, who held it in 1286, in which year he claimed view of frank-pledge, and assize of bread and ale of all his tenants. It was this Gilbert, and Agnes, his wife, that in 1292 conveyed two third parts of this manor to sir Robert Fitz-Walter, so that it was again joined to the great manor, all but one third part, which they in 1285 had conveyed by fine to sir Richard de Boyland, together with a third part of the demesnes, and 28s. per annum quit-rent, and this part constituted that manor here which is now called Heywood-hall, of which we find a fine levied in 1289 by sir Richard de Boyland to Stephen Fitz-Walter, lord (in trust) of the great manor, who designed to join this, as his predecessor had done the other parts, to that manor, in order to make it more compleat: but it proved of no force; for in 1314
Richard,

Richard, son of sir Richard de Boyland, sued Robert Fitz-Walter for it, and recovered it, it having been settled on his mother before the fine was sued, to which he was not a party; at sir Richard's death it came to sir John de Boyland, of Boyland-hall, in Briffingham; he left only one daughter, married to John Lancaster, of Briffingham, esq. senior, who left it to Ellen, his wife, for life, then to John Lancaster, junior, of Briffingham, esq. he by will, proved July 28, 1470, left it to Elizabeth, his wife, for life; and after her decease to William Lancaster, esq. (her son) of Caty Wade and Briffingham, who had Benedicla, his sole heiress, married to Edward Bolton about the year 1505; and by will dated July 15, 1528, bequeathed it to Thomas Bolton, of Saham Tony, his second son, who died seised in 1544: it was sold to sir Thomas Jermyn, knt. but it continued very little while in that family; for in 1616 William Mason, esq. and John Beseley, gent. sold it to William Webb, and Charles Wiseman, gents. from whom it came to the Fishers, Richard Fisher, gent. being seised in 1636, and Edward Fisher, gent. in 1662. From 1607 to 1684 we find it in John Buxton, gent. and after in Robert Buxton, esq. of St. Margaret's, in South Elmham, who was lord in 1715.

We must observe, that in a court roll of this manor, among Mr. le Neve's papers, in 1423, when Ellen, widow of John Lancaster, senior, held her first court, there were two distinct juries, one for the part of the manor in Difs, and the other for that part in Burston; it was always held of the great manor of Difs by fealty, and 5s. per annum rent, in full for all suit and service, being estimated at 8l. per annum.

HEYWOOD,

HEYWOOD, HEWODE, or HEYWODE MANOR, was always part of Winfarthing manor till it was separated by Henry I. who gave it to sir Richard de Lucy, and so joined it to Disf; he gave a third part of the hundred, manor, and market, in frank-pledge, with Dionisia, his daughter, to sir Robert de Muntene, or Mounteny; and in the year 1161 the said Robert held of Richard, in Walcote, a member of Disf, one fee. Sir Arnold de Muntene, his son, succeeded him in 1230; and Robert, his son, in 1286 had view of frank-pledge, and died seised of this manor, with a third part of the hundred, and market, leaving it to Arnold, his son and heir, who claimed liberty of free-warren in all his demesnes, and had it allowed. In 1293 he was summoned to attend Edward I. into Gascoigne, for the recovery thereof. This Arnold granted part of this manor to William, his second son, which at William's death, in 1313, was settled on Katherine, his widow, then married to Gilbert Baliol, for life, and the remainder to Dionisia, afterwards wife of Hugh de Vere, daughter of the said William, by which Dionisia it reverted to Winfarthing manor again, and being joined in the said Hugh, it hath gone with it ever since.

The customs of the manor of Disf, confirmed by the lord and tenants at a general court of survey there held, the 13th of September, 1636, are as follow, as appear by the original, now in the churchwardens hands:

“ The fines are arbitrable upon every alienation and descent, and on every death the lands descend to the eldest son, or next allied, according to the course of the common law, and are subject to such forfeitures as the common law doth direct.

“ The copyhold tenants may fell timber without forfeiture on the copyhold lands.

“ The lord's bailiff can take but one penny for each beast's poundage. The tenants can dig gravel, sand, turf, &c. on the waste, and make hemp pits on Dis-moor, and Cock-street-green.

“ The tenants can plant upon the wastes against their own lands and houses, by the name of an Out-run.

“ They can also stub furze and bushes on all the wastes.

“ The lord hath all the strays, he hath no warren, but liberty of hawking, hunting, and fishing, in the manor; and the lords formerly have granted liberty of fishing to divers tenants; and it is returned, that John Turner, Samuel Folser, Thomas Shreve, Reginald Shuckforth, and Henry Turner, have, and maintain certain pits in their yards and grounds, with inlets from them to the great meer, as by custom they can justify.

“ The tenants can make steps out of their doors into the street, and stairs out of their cellars, and also they can set up buoys, or props, at their windows, and seats at their doors, according to custom.

“ The lord hath a market every Friday, a fair on Sts. Simon and Jude, when his bailiff takes 2d. for every tilted stall, and 1d. for every one untiled, and no more; and for the market stalls he takes either a weekly or yearly rent, but all that stand under any houses, pent-houses, &c. pay the bailiff 4d. per ann. by 1d. every quarter, and no more; but all they
that

that sell any manner of victuals pay nothing, stand where they will, and all corn, corn carts, &c. pay nothing.

“ As to the extent of the manor, they say that it extends from the river dividing Norfolk and Suffolk, on the south, in and through a great part of the town of Difs, and into Roydon, Burston, Frenze, Shelfanger, and Winfarthing, and that Thomas earl of Arundel and Surry, earl marshal of England, hath a manor here, called Heywood; also John Havers, gent. a manor that extends into this town, called Roydon-hall *cum* Tufts; Richard Fisher, gent. hath a manor, called Heywood-hall; and Richard Nixon, gent. Frenze manor, which extends into this town; the manor of Difs rectory, and the manors of Brockdish-hall, and Mildenhall, in Burston, extend hither. The lord of this manor hath a mansion-house, in which Samuel Pethaugh now dwells, and 35l. per annum, and a part of the toll-house now in decay for want of tiling, and a piece of land, called Hingelswood, and a piece of marsh in Briffingham.

“ The advowson belongs to the lord, whose officers are, a steward, a bailiff, and a heyward.

“ N. B. The manors in Difs give a moiety dower.”

The capital manor-house, called Difs-hall, is situated at Heywood-green, which, with sixteen acres three roods of land, is held by copy of court-roll of this manor.

WATTON'S MANOR, now called COCK-STREET, was very small, being held by a free-man of William Mallet, lord of the honor of Eye, in Suffolk, though it

did not belong to his fee: Walter de Cadomo, Caam, or Canz, disseised him; this was afterwards called Watton's, from one of its lords; it continued some time in Walter's family, and was afterwards held of the capital manor.

In 1235 Ralph de Cunges, or Canz, a (descendent from the said Walter) was lord; he held it by the fourth part of a fee; from him it came to Richard de Cunges, who enlarged it, by purchasing more lands and rents to it of the Fitz-Walters.

In 1322 Reginald le Man, of Difs, was lord, who in 1337 left it to Alice, his wife, from which family it came to the Wattons.

About 1420 John Watton was lord, who before 1431 had conveyed it to Henry Sircok, for then he occurs lord; it was soon after purchased by the Fitz-Walters, and added to Difs manor, with which, in 1493, upon lord Fitz-Walter's attainder, it was seised by the king, as a member of that manor, and was then called Watton's, or Cock-street, in Difs, from which time it hath been always included in the manor of Difs. The scite, or manor-house, abuts on Cock-street-green, west, and was granted in 1494 by Henry VII. to be held by copy of court-roll, paying 4s. 6d. per annum quit-rent.

DISS RECTORY MANOR hath all along gone, and now is in the rector of the parish; the custom of which is, that all lands and tenements descend to the eldest son, and the tenant cannot waste his copyhold houses without licence. The fines are at the lord's will, but in all things else the tenants may do as they please.

Bale, in his *Actions of English Votaries*, (vol. 98. b) says, that pope Alexander wrote to John of Oxford, then bishop of Norwich, that William, the now parson of Difs, for claiming the parsonage of Difs by inheritance, after the death of his father, who begat him in his priesthood, should be *dispossessed*, and no appellation admitted.

Edward III. by letters patent, dated the 2d of July, presented Martin de Ixuing, one of his chaplains, to this church; he had several ecclesiastical preferments given him both before and after. It was a *presentation* only for the turn when void, if he lived so long, and was obtained by the king from the Fitz-Walter family; however, he never possessed this living.

John Skelton, the king's orator, and poet laureat, was rector in 1504.

William Browne, rector here, was deprived for being *married*.

In 1554, May 6, the right Rev. John Salisbury, bishop of Thetford, suffragan to the bishop of Norwich, was presented by Henry earl of Suffex to this rectory, which was void by the deprivation of the last incumbent; he was bishop of the Isle of Man, and held in *commendam* the deanry of Norwich, the archdeacons of Anglesey, the church of Thorpe on the Hill, in Lincoln diocese, and the rectory of Difs, by licence from archbishop Parker, dated *anno* 1570; he was rector for some time of Lopham, and several other parishes in this county; he died at Norwich, and is buried in the middle of St. Andrew's church there.

In 1587 John Reeve, A. M. was instituted at the presentation of Frances, then widow of the said Thomas earl of Suffex; but he had not peaceable possession; for Henry earl of Suffex, brother to Thomas, husband of the said Frances, brought his action again both patroness and incumbent, and ejected him in 1589; and on May 17, in that year, Richard Cox, A. M. was instituted. The dispute seems to have been this; that though the said Frances held the manor for life in jointure, yet the advowson, as the earl would have it, was not in the settlement*. But it ended not here, Frances contending her claim, Cox was ejected, and Reeve declared incumbent: but he remained so but little time; for Nov. 17, 1591, Cox was re-instituted, and very soon after ejected again, and no incumbent declared, nor none presented, so long that it had laid from the latter end of 91, to Dec. 93, when one William Goddard, A. M. was presented, but denied institution; whereupon Cox, to make himself sure, and end all disputes, took the broad seal, it being lapsed to the crown, and obtained queen Elizabeth's letters patent to void all other presentations, on which he was instituted December 2, 1593, and held it to 96, when he died.

In 1647 Edward Palgrave, B. D. was presented by Richard Prettyman, of Griston, gent. it was not long before he was ejected by the proceedings of the times, and his living given to Richard Moore, A. M. who signed the attestation of the ministers of this county in 1648; but he was soon displaced, and it was taken by John Hobart, who held it by usurpation
some

* The advowson of Great Massingham at this day (1780) is in the earl of Orford, though the manor is held for life in jointure by his mother, Margaret, the present countess dowager of Orford.

some time, but was afterwards thrown out by Mr. Moore, who held it till 1662, when he was ejected, and Edward Bernard, clerk, instituted upon his deprivation, at the presentation of John Hobart, esq.

In 1729 William Burlington, of Difs, gent. presented the Rev. Edward Bosworth to the rectory of Difs, but the right honorable the earl of Suffex is patron. The Rev. Mr. Manning is the present rector.

Here is a good rectory-house, and convenient out-houses, with twelve acres of glebe adjoining to it, all which abut south on Difs-moor. It is valued in the king's books at 33l. 6s. 8d.

In the dean and chapter's book, called Norwich Doomſday, it is said, that the rector then had a mansion-house much in decay, with another house, which was formerly the vicar's; it may seem odd that there was ever a vicar, but we are to remember, that often in those times vicars signified no more than curates, and were removeable at the rector's pleasure; indeed, when churches were appropriated to monasteries, and the religious were forced to set out a portion of the glebe and tithes for the maintenance of a vicar, such a one is called a *perpetual vicar*, made presentive and institutive; but there are no footsteps of any institution to the vicarage of Difs, not but that the rector might, with the consent of the bishop and patron, have at any time created a vicarage, and made his own share a *ſinecure*, as was done at East Dereham, Terrington, &c. and this since the council of Lateran; nay, in the diocese of St. Asaph, there are such separations of tithes made, and vicarages erected, as low as the time of Henry VIII.

In the time of James I. there was a long suit about the customs of this rectory, and at length it was ended, and an exemplification under seal passed, November 21, 1610, in which it was thus acknowledged on all sides :

“ That the rector is to receive in kind the tenth sheaf of all corn bound up. And of all corn not bound up, the tenth heap, ready heaped. Of peas he is to take the tenth fletcher.

“ For the fall of every calf, lamb, or pig, under seven, he is to receive one halfpenny ; but if there be seven, he is to take the seventh, and to pay to the owner three halfpence, because there lacks three of ten ; if there be eight, one penny ; if nine, one halfpenny ; if ten, nothing. For the fall of every foal the rector to receive one penny. Every seventh gosling, allowing one farthing for each gosling wanting of ten, and taking one farthing for each gosling under seven. The tithe eggs are due in kind. Tithe wool, every tenth pound. Every tenth bate, or sheaf of hemp, in kind.

“ In lieu of tithe wood the rector is paid one penny every Sunday, house after house, throughout the town ; for when holy bread was used, three pennyworth of bread was brought to the parson every Sunday, of which he distributed to the poor two pennyworth, and the third penny he had to his own use, by the name of harthage, and at the time of taking away holy bread, the inhabitants paid as above for wood and harthage.

“ In lieu of tithe hay the rector receives twopence per acre for all mowing ground, by the name of senage. For every milch cow he receives one penny

penny per ann. by the name of laſlage. For every orchard, and garden plot, he receives one penny per annum in lieu of its tithe. For every hive of bees one penny per annum, except it be the firſt year they ſwarm, and then nothing. For every gaſt heifer, ſteer, or colt, feeding from one year old to three, one penny.

“ The tithe calves are to be paid at ſeven weeks old, and not before; pigs at five weeks old; chickens at a month old; lambs and goſlings at Lammas; eggs are due at Eaſter; herbages, laſtages, and fen-ages, to be paid between Lammas and Chriſtmas.”

By the churchwardens books it appears that upon every burial in the church they receive 6s. 8d. for breach of the pavement. In 1571 Richard Foulſer paid it for his wife's burial, and Nicholas Eſtowe did the ſame.

The church here is dedicated to the honor of the Virgin Mary, and is a regular building, having a ſquare tower joined to its weſt end, with ſix bells, a clock and chimies; the nave, two ailes, and two porches are leaved, the chancel is tiled, between which and the nave hangs a ſaints bell.

The veſtry, which was on the north ſide of the chancel, is down; at the end of the north aile is a chapel, formerly belonging to Corpus Chriſti guild; oppoſite is another, belonging to the brothers of St. Nicholas' guild; but upon their incorporation, about the time of Henry VI. when they built St. Nicholas' chapel, they were forſaken by them, and left to the ſoul prieſts of the pariſh, who ſang in them till the Reformation; the organ uſed to ſtand between the firſt of theſe chapels and the chancel; the roofs of
the

the nave, chancel, and two chapels, are stained with red and white. The building now standing was without doubt built by the Fitz-Walters, whose arms are often cut on the south porch in stone, and were formerly in many of the windows, as were the arms of Wingfield and De-la-Pole. In other windows, Fitz-Walter impales Ufford; in another, were the arms of England and France quartered, and St. George, as also Bury abbey arms; and in another shield, the East Angles, all which are now lost, except the Fitz-Walters.

In an upper north window of the nave is a man in a blue robe, with a red mantle, kneeling on a cushion, bidding his beads; and opposite (in the same window) a woman in the same posture; but there being no arms, or inscription, we know not who they were designed for.

In the south aisle is an old in-arched monument, with a coffin-stone lying by it, but there are no arms or inscription.

In the north chapel was such another stone, which being taken up to make a vault for Mr. William Burton, they found an entire skeleton; by its head was a silver chalice; this in all probability was some priest: it was buried again in the coffin.

By this stone stands a fine altar-tomb of black marble, and Portland-stone, on which is an inscription in gilt letters, for—*Mr. William Burton, late of Cock-street, in this parish of Dis; he died February 14, anno Dom. 1705, aged 59. Amongst other charities he devised, that his executrix should purchase lands* to the value*

* That was laid out for land, called Hingelfwood, being copyhold

value of one hundred pounds, and that the same should be settled upon two trustees, to the intent that this tomb-stone, and the vault, should by the churchwardens of Disf be constantly kept clean, and in good repair, and what remains of the yearly profit of the estate when purchased, or of the interest money till the purchase be made, should upon Christmas-day yearly, for ever, be disposed of by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor for the time being, to such of the poor house-keepers within this parish as they, or the major part, shall think fit, with a condition or proviso in his will, that if this stone, or the vault underneath it, should be broke open, other than for the interment of Mary, his wife, or if the churchwardens neglected to keep the same clean, and in good repair, or to keep an account in their books how, and to whom, the money shall be yearly disposed of, then the payment of the charity to Disf is from thenceforth to cease, and to be paid to Roydon, for the like uses, and under the like conditions; and if Roydon make default, then, in like manner, to Briffingham.

Against one of the north pillars in the middle aisle is fixed a neat small monument, on the top of which, in a shield, Deynes, impaling sab. three boars heads coupee, or; and an inscription, for—*Martha, Henrici Deynes, gen. uxor, obiit Maij 30, anno etat. 23, Dni. 1661.*

On the same pillar another small monument is fastened, for—*Richard, son of Henry and Martha Deynes, who died July 25, 1712, aged 56.*

All the stones are robbed of their brasses, on one of which, in the chancel, is the impresson of the chalice and wafer, under which is a priest buried.

Two

copyhold on Frenze manor, and is now infeoffed among other lands; 5s. per annum is settled to keep clean the tomb, the rest to the poor.

Two black marble in the chancel have inscriptions and arms; for— *Edward Bosworth, late rector of Thelveton, who died Feb. 14, 1714, aged 40; and also Deborah, his wife who was one of the daughters of Samuel Manning, gent. deceased, who died the 13th of September, 1708, aged 28.*

On the second, Bosworth's arms and crest; for— *Edward Bosworth late rector of this parish, who died January 18, 1713, aged 65.*

On an altar-tomb by the south aisle,—*Thomas Sheriffe, gen: & artium magister, sub tumulo a laboribus hic repositus quiescit, decessit Aprilis 13, anno ætatis 61, Lom. 1669*.*

Another altar-monument, with the arms of Coggeshall; —*William Coggeshall, gent. late of Difs, who died August 9, 1714, aged 48.†*

Besides the monumental inscriptions we have mentioned, there are some to the families of Shuckfort, Baylie,

* This man, though he was in so great favor with the anti-royalists as to be made and continued a justice of peace, yet altogether deserves a good character, for by him were many royalists saved from their designed ruin: When the gentlemen of the neighbourhood were impeached, or imprisoned, he privately sent them letters, informing them what was intended, and advising them how to proceed, by which means several escaped out of Ipswich gaol, and others were saved from threatened destruction; by which behaviour he gained such esteem, that though times altered, he lived beloved, and died respected, for the good he had done.

† This William was son of Henry Coggeshall, a descendent from the ancient family of the Coggeshalls, of Coggeshall, in Essex, which family flourished there from the time of Henry I. down to Queen Mary. This Henry much improved the art of gauging, by inventing the rule called after his name.

Baylie, Harrifon, Kett, Burroughs, Cann, and Carnell.

In 1558, February 10, fir Thomas Johnson, priest, was buried here.

In 1494 Richard Edon de Difs was buried here: "I will that the (town) village of Difs have my house and land in Sturston, (except my pasture at Overgate-went, and half an acre and a rood at Wetland-went) and also my meadow in Scole, and half an acre at Sondewey there, and one acre and an half at Broome, for ever, on condition that the annual profits thereof be applied to pay the common fine (i. e. the leet-fee) of the town of Difs, for ever, and that they annually keep my *obiit* for ever, for the souls of me and all benefactors, 4d. to ring; 3s. 4d. (*pro certitudine*) for a certain."

In 1579 the plague was at Difs, of which fifty-six persons died this year.

John Petit died Sept 21, 1727, *æt.* 71. By his last will he gave 10s. per ann. for ever, to the minister, or curate, for the time being, to preach a sermon annually on the day of his interment, by way of exhortation, to *prepare* for death, 1s. per ann. to the sexton, and one to the clerk, to attend the service of the day, and 10s. per ann. to the poor, to be distributed on the same day, which is the 23d of September, for all which he tied his estate, called the Unicorn, in Difs.

In 1497 fir John Dowe was buried in our Lady's church here.

In

In 1504 Margery Cowper was buried in the church:
 " I wyll myne executors pay the money I promysyd
 " to the purchase of the church, (this was towards
 " Framlingham lands): *Item*, to Thomas, myne son,
 " Mil Clofe to ringe the yereday for me and myne
 " husbände, so long as it shall please the said Tho-
 " mas, but never the lesse, I constrayne him not to
 " do it, but at his awn voluntary will be it done."

In 1505 John Prikke, of Difs, senior, was buried in the church; he gave 6d. to repair *le fowle slothe*, (foul slough) towards Roydon.

February 2, 1506, John Clarke ordered his executors to pay to the purchase of Framlingham, quarterly, " To a pilgrim, a priest, to be in prayer and
 " pilgrimage at Rome, the whole lent there, to pray
 " and syng for me and myne children, my fader and
 " moder, Robert, and Cate, John Kew, and Maut,
 " Stephen Brightled, and John Payn, the which I am
 " in *deet* (debt) to."

In 1512 Thomas Cowper was buried in Difs church: " *Item*, I wyll that my clofen, called Chepys,
 " and the Mylle-clofe, shall find the lamp with,
 " for the rood, and the certen, and the yerday, for
 " the foullys of Stephyn Cowper, and Margery, his
 " wife, Thomas Cowper, and Agnes, his wife, and
 " all our children, for whom a priest shall be found
 " to sing lx yers, of my londs in Harleston."

In 1514 Thomas Purchase, *alias* Spicer, of Difs, buried in the church there, gave his wife and son a meadow in Difs, called Mekill-clofe, with a house on it, on condition to keep his anniversary yearly, for evermore, in the church, that is, with 11s. 4d. to be given to three *honest* priests.

In

In 1563 John Rivet, of Difs, was buried in the steeple-porch, September 25; he gave a surplice, and 20s. to repair the Market-street pavement, 20s.

Some of the lands that were settled on the soul priests, and to maintain the lamps, &c. were seized by Edward VI. in 1547, and were granted with divers other to sir Roger Townshend, knt. and some to others.

The soul priests of Difs had stipends of 5l. 6s. 8d. per ann. each.

At the Reformation the church plate was sold to Henry earl of Suffex, August 15, 1546, at which time he gave the inhabitants a bond for twenty marks for it; and after this we find a letter from the same earl, dated at his manor of Attleburgh, July 25, 1587, directed to the chief inhabitants, signed by him, *Your louynge and assured good lorde*, (as he calls himself) desiring them, that as he had already received part of the town plate, that he may have the nay (as we call it) of such portion more as shall be sold, at a reasonable price, which shall be paid them by warrants directed to his bailiff, out of his manor of Difs; at the same time intimating, that as they do by him in this affair, they may expect he should do to them and theirs. We never could meet with an account of the plate, but do not doubt but that it was fine and valuable, else so great a man as the earl would never have thought it worth his while to trouble himself about it. We find that they sold all so far, that in 1571 they had only one cup of 23 oz. weight. There is now belonging to this church a chalice, a cup, two silver dishes, a small plate, a spoon, and a silver-hafted knife and fork.

This

This place is said to have produced the following writers, and remarkable men :

Ralph de Diceto, dean of St. Paul's, and a great benefactor thereto, was a very learned man, and a great author; some of his works are printed; he lived in the time of Henry II. of whom more may be seen in Newcourt's Repertorium, and in sir William Dugdale's History of St. Paul's, 2d edit. p. 10, where by mistake (as le Neve says) it is called Disca, in Suffolk, though in page 501, it is called Disce.*

William of Dis was sacrist of St. Edmund's monastery at Bury, duly elected; but he continued so but four days, having so great fear upon him, that he could not discharge his office well, that all that time he could take no rest, and therefore petitioned abbot Samson that he might resign, who consenting thereto, Robert de Gravely was chosen in his place.

Walter of Dis, born here, was a carmelite friar at Norwich, one of the most ignorant of all that convent in his youth; at length he turned the reverse, continually applying himself to gain knowledge and learning, in which he so much profited, that he took his doctors degree in Cambridge with the utmost honor. He was afterwards confessor to John duke of Lancaster and Aquitain, king of Leon and Castile, and also to Constance, his queen, and a great flickler for pope Urban, and the other popes, that were by him and his faction named the Anti-popes, of whom
he

* We own we are no ways certain of his original, for Leland doubts whether he was an Englishman, and his name is spelled so very different in old manuscripts, that we can make no inference from thence, though we find him placed under this town in le Neve's collections.

he obtained, through the duke's favor, certain faculties, to be distributed to such as would pray, and pay for them, of which one was, to make all those whom he thought good the pope's chaplains, according to the form of law, and the custom used in the court of Rome, and because such as obtained this favor enjoyed great liberties, (viz to hold as many ecclesiastical preferments as they could get, &c) many were glad to give largely to be so preferred; another bull gave him power to create fifty doctors, and as many prothonotaries, to reconsecrate such things, or places, as had been prophaned, to legitimate bastards, and such like. In 1387 he was made the pope's legate, *a latere*, to preach up the crusade against the Anti-pope's faction, granting indulgences to all those that helped, or went to those wars, in as ample a manner as if they went against the common enemies of religion, the Turks; this he did in the time of pope Urban, and Boniface XII. with success, and that not in England only, but in Castile, Portugal, Aquitain, Leon, Navarre, Gascoigne, and several foreign parts; at last he returned to his monastery, in which he died, and was buried August 14, 1404, near the high altar of their church†.

William of Difs, a friar preacher, was confessor to Henry V. with whom he went to Caen, in Normandy, in the 6th year of his reign, where the king hearing of the holy life, and frequent miracles, of one Vincent of Arragon, a friar preacher, he sent this William to him, who brought him to the king, by whom he was honorably received, *anno* 1417.

F John

* He composed the following treatises, and several others: —*Lecturam Theologiz*, lib. 1. *Contra Lollardos*, five *Wickliffitas*, lib. 1. *De Scismate*, lib. 1. *Sermones de Tempore ac de Sanctis*, &c. (see Poffevin).

John Skelton, rector of Difs, was a pleasant, merry poet, so much esteemed for his oratory, as well as poetry, that he was made * poet-laureat, and king's orator; he flourished in the times of Henry VII. and VIII. was rector and lived here in 1504, and in 1511, as we find by his being witness to several wills in this year. We take it that Skelton was not only rector, but a native of this place, being son of William Skelton, and Margaret, his wife, whose will was proved at Norwich, November 7, 1512. That his name was Shelton, or Skelton, appears from his successor's institution, viz. July 17, 1529, Thomas Clerk was instituted on the death of John Shelton, last rector; and indeed, though the late bishop of St. Asaph, in

* (*Orator regius & poeta laureatus.*) We cannot omit adding at this place a remark out of doctor Knight's life of dean Colet, p. 121, to set the matter of poet-laureat in a true light, most people being often deceived in that point: "It may shew the great regard had about this time to these studies, that the university students took their degrees in rhetoric and grammar, the manner whereof Mr. Wood tells us, in his account of an eminent grammarian, Robert Whittington: In the beginning of the year 1513, he supplicated the venerable congregation of regents under the name and title of Robert Whytingdon, a secular chaplain, and a scholar of the art of rhetoric; that whereas he had spent fourteen years in the study of the said art, and twelve years in the informing of boys, it might be sufficient for him, that he might be laureated. This supplication being granted, he was (after he had composed a hundred verses, which were stuck in public places, especially on the door, or doors, of Saint Mary's church) very solemnly crowned, or his temples adorned with a wreath of laurel, that is, doctorated in the arts of grammar and rhetoric, 4 July the same year. And this may discover the error of some, who not considering the crown of laurel as the ensign of a degree, have been apt to think, that a poet-laureat of old, as well as of late, had that title, and a pension with it from the prince, when it came from the university, in commencing the degree of doctor of grammar; as it came thus to Bernard Andreas, tutor of prince Arthur, to John Shelton, tutor of prince Henry, &c."

in his notes to Mr. Blomefield upon this hundred, observes, that Bale, Wood, &c make him to have been born in Cumberland; and though one of both his names was admitted to the reading of the decretals, and seems to have been beneficed in Somersetshire, yet he much doubts whether it was the same with our poet, though he was an Oxonian, laureated in that university, ordained deacon April 14, 1498, and priest the 8th of June following, by Thomas Savage, bishop of London,—*Johannes Skelton, poeta laureatus, London dioc: ad titulum monasterij de gracia juxta Turrim London: ordinatur diac: per Thom: London: ep: 14 April, 1498, presbit, 8 Jun: sequen: (Regr. Savage ep: Lond:)* William Caxton in his preface to his translation of Virgil's *Æneids*, printed in 1490, hath this: “ I pray Mayster John Skelton, “ late created poete-laureat in the universite of Oxforde, to over-see and correct this sayd boke.”

Mr. le Neve says, that his institution does not appear in the books, which is true; for often those that were collated by the pope had no institution from the bishop, many instances of which in those books occur; but it is certain from abundance of records and evidences, that he was rector several years. Erasmus himself gives him this character, in his letter to Henry VIII. “ that he was the light and honor of the “ British learning:” he was scholar enough, and no bad poet, unless for himself, for being addicted too much to satire; he created three such enemies as ruined him, both in reputation, liberty, and estate; William Lilly, the Dominican friars, and cardinal Wolsey; the first of these was that great school-master, the author of our Latin grammar; upon him he reflected as a bad verse-maker, to which Lilly replied,

*Skeltone, dum tibi parare famam
Et doctus fieri. Studes poeta,
Doctrinam nec habes, nec es poeta.*

Whilst Skelton thou to get esteem,
A learned poet fain would seem;
Skelton thou art, let all men know it,
Neither learned, nor a poet.

The Dominicans were very obnoxious to his satirical pen, for their vices, and he could not forbear exercising his wit upon them; but they who would bear no serious reproofs, would much less endure his poetical scoffs; whereupon they stirred up Richard Nix, then bishop of Norwich, to call him to an account for keeping a concubine, (though we ought to observe with Bale, that she was his wife) for which the bishop suspended him from his benefice; but these were not his worst enemies; for the cardinal it was that completed his misfortunes: our poet having inveighed against some of that great prelate's actions*, and charged him with too much truth, he prosecuted him so hard for it, that he was forced to take sanctuary in Westminster Abbey, where abbot Islip treated him with much respect in his confinement, in which he died, June 21, 1529, and was buried in the chancel of St. Margaret's church, Westminster, under a stone, with this Epitaph:—*Johannes Skeletonus, vates Pierius, hic situs est.*

He

* The cardinal by his power legantine dissolved the convocation at St. Paul's, called by the archbishop of Canterbury, and called him and all the clergy to his convocation at Westminster, which was never seen before in England, whereof Master Skelton, a merry poet, wrote

“ Gentile Paule, laie down thy swearde

“ For Peter of Westminster hath shaven thy beard.

For this and such like jests it was that the cardinal prosecuted him so eagerly.

He foretold cardinal Wolsey's downfall, and being charged with keeping a concubine, and having several children by her, he said, in his conscience he ever esteemed her for his wife, though he did not declare it, because fornication in the clergy was thought a little sin, and marriage a great one.

Mr. Wood in his *Athenæ Oxonienses* tells us, that "the generality saw, that his witty discourses were biting, his laughter opprobrious and scornful, and his jokes commonly sharp and reflecting." His character may be seen at large in Bale and Pitts, where there is also an account of some of his works†, most of which were published this year. He wrote also a poem in English, called "The Ymage of Ypocresy," being a bitter invective against the monks and friars, and some of the great men of that age. Mr. le Neve says, that the manuscript was in his own hands, and that he had it out of the Ashwelthorpe library, and that it was allowed to be Skelton's own

F 3. hand

† Pithy, pleausant, and profitable workes of Master Skelton, poete-laureate to Henry VIII. 1. The Crowne of Lawrel. 2. The Bouge of Court. 3. Speak Parrot. 4. Edward the 4th. 5. Against the Scottes. 6. The Tunning of Elinour Rummung. 7. Why come you not to Court? 8. Colin Clout. 9. Philip Sparrowe. 10. Upon a Dead Man's Head. 11. Ware the Hawke. 12. Of three Fooles. 13. En Parlement a Paris. 14. Epitaphs of two Knaves of Dice. 15. Lamentation for Norwiche. 16. The dolorous Death of the Earl of Northumberland. 17. A Parable by William Cornish, in the Fleete. 18. Against venemous Tongues. 19. Of Calliope. With several other poems and epitaphs.—Printed for C. Davis, in Paternoster-Row, near Amen-corner, London, (Price bound 5s.) He wrote fifty-four treatises, as Pitt says, some of which were printed in the time of queen Elizabeth, as Colin Clout, &c. Chorus de Dys contra Scottes, &c. Chorus de Disse contra Gallos, &c. Ware the Hawke. Epitaphium Adæ Udersal & Johannis Clark, Nebulonum de Disse. Henry the VIIth's Epitaph; and that on Mary countess of Richmond, &c.

hand writing; now it belongs to Mr. West, who purchased it at Mr. le Neve's auction.

John Briars A. M. rector of Difs, was chaplain to Charles bishop of Norwich; he published a sermon preached at Palgrave, in Suffolk. at the first meeting of the gentlemen and clergy for encouraging the charity school lately set up there, on Phil. 4. 17. edit. Lond. 1711: And also a pamphlet, intitled, "The present Behaviour of Mankind inconsistent with the true Spirit of Charity, which alone can prove available to put an End to our unhappy Divisions; being a discourse on the 13 chap. 1 Cor." And several poems without his name, inserted in divers miscellanies. He was also rector of Billingsford, by Difs, where he was buried, January 1, 1728.

St. Nicholas' chapel. Besides the parish church there was a free chapel, dedicated to the honor of St. Nicholas the bishop, which was built about the time of Henry V. by the brethren and sisters of St. Nicholas, and of Corpus Christi guilds, which then were consolidated. It seems by the evidences and wills as if these two guilds were ancient, mention being frequently made of them in the time of Richard II. upon their joining together, it shews as if they were rich at that time, for they soon built this chapel, and began a fund to purchase land sufficient to endow it; but though they joined their common stock, yet each to their dissolution had a priest that separately belonged to each of them, and all gifts were given as to separate guilds, and the brethren and sisters of each were severally admitted and enrolled; the Guild-hall was common to them both, being the same that is now standing at the south-east corner of the church-yard, which was granted to the inhabitants, and is now used for the charity school-house. It was at that
time

time well furnished for the merry meetings of the brethren and sisters of those guilds. In 1575 here were kept the standard, scales, and weights for the market; and there was left to the use of the town in this house, 1 chaldron, 1 brass pot, 5 spits, 2 bowls, 1 ladle, 2 trewets, 20 salts, 4 platters, 46 mease of plates, 40 mease of dishes, 40 mease of trenchers, 9 dozen of spoons, 4 cups, 6 table cloths, &c. by which we may conjecture what jolly doings there had been formerly. Their chapel stood in St. Nicholas'-street, exactly where the house now stands, between the street that leads down to the steeple, and that that goes on the right hand to the Market-place, the chapel yard extending east to the blacksmith's traverse, and no further. This in the 2d year of Edward VI. suffered the fate of all other free chapels, being then dissolved; from that time it stood in a decaying condition, and was in the crown, by virtue of the act, till the 18th of June, 1584, at which time the queen granted "All that chapel, with the appurtenances, in
 " Difs, in the county of Norfolk, now in decay,
 " commonly called St. Nicholas' chapel, which was
 " formerly used for the celebrating masses, and other
 " superstitious uses," to William Croft, and John Haliyet, by her letters dated at Westminster the day and year aforesaid, all which they were to hold to them and their heirs, of the queen and her successors, as of her manor of East Greenwich, in Kent, by fealty only, in free soccage, and not *in capite*, or by knight's service, paying 3d. into the Exchequer; they held it till 1595. and then sold it to Henry Cullyder, butcher, of Difs, and Robert Haull, of Palgrave, notary public, and they the year after sold it to William Chambers, of Difs, blacksmith, and now (Blomefield) it is in the possession of Jonathan Walpole.

The Town Lands. This town hath an estate at Framlingham, in Suffolk, which in Mr. Blomefield's time was lett at 56l. per ann. It was purchased of William Knights, of Great Glemham. and Robert Aldred, of Brussyard, *anno* 1500, by the fund that the brethren of St. Nicholas, and Corpus Christi guilds, had made; which was, that every brother and sister should pay a certain sum every quarter into the guild chest, to be kept till it should amount to a sum sufficient to purchase lands to endow their stipendiary priests; this was so generally approved of, that few died here without leaving something towards this purchase, and the chief inhabitants subscribed to it, though they were not brethren; nay, several left money to be annually paid by their executors to it, for years after their deaths; this by degrees raised enough to buy more than they at first intended, but yet they laid out more than at that time they had, for they bought no less than eighty acres of freehold ground, called Coldhaugh, *alias* Cowle-hall, in Framlingham. By an English schedule annexed, the feoffees in 1508 declared the uses of the feoffment, viz. " that a bailly, or officer, by them or the
 " moste parte in nombre of them appointed, shall
 " take & perceyve the yerely profits of the seid londes
 " and tenements, and other the premisses comprised
 " within the said deed, therewith an honest and go-
 " vernabill seculer-preeft, by the most parte of the co-
 " feoffees to be named, hired, and waged compe-
 " tently, yerly to synge or seye masses, and other de-
 " vygne service, for the sowles of the bretheren and
 " sisters of the gildes and fraternities of Corporis
 " Christi, and St. Nicholas the bishop, in the parishe
 " church of Disse, within the counte of Norfolk,
 " by the space and terme of lxxxxix yeres, next en-
 " sewing the date of the seide present dede, and at
 " the end of the seide lxxxxix yeres, the seide feoffees,
 " their heirs, and assignees, and all manner of persons
 " that

“ that then shall be lawfully leased, or infeoffed in the
“ premisses, or any of them, at and for suche price
“ as they, or the most parte of them in nombre,
“ canne agree, shall selle alle and every of the pre-
“ misses, with the appurtenances, and with or for
“ the money thereof, or therefor, comyng or grow-
“ yng, shall fynde annuelly an honest governabill
“ seculer preest, to syng for the sowlys aforeseid, or
“ ellis with the seid mony, or londs, or tenements,
“ and other the premisses, shall make further provi-
“ sion for a competent levyng for an honest preest for
“ the tyme being, if it then may be, by an amortise-
“ ment, or other wise, as they shall seeme best, for
“ the most sewer and longer continuance of the
“ fynding of the seid honest preest, to contynewe for
“ ever, if it may so be contynued by the ordour of
“ the lawe, the same preest for the tyme being to do
“ the Devygne servyce, and syng for the sowles in
“ manner and forme abovesaid.” When all the

seoffees are dead but five, then they to renew again, and those five to name 12 more at least, which are to be brothers of one of the said guilds, and none of the heirs of the former seoffees; the stipend allowed to each of these priests was at the dissolution 5l. 6s. 8d. though at first it was but four marks each, or if they kept one priest only for both guilds, then he was to have eight marks per annum, and the overplus was laid out in repairing the steeple, church, and streets, every year. Thus it continued till the 2d year of Edward VI. when it was seized by the statute for the dissolution of the guilds, chapels, and chantries; but the townsmen of Dis objected against it, and stood an action with that king; but it appearing that the term of the seoffment was not expired, they could do no good in the affair, and it continued in the crown till the 43d of Elizabeth, in which year the queen granted them to Thomas Mildmay, for divers years yet unexpired, at the yearly reserved rent of 4l. and

Thomas,

Thomas, son of the said Thomas Mildmay, of Framlingham, gent. succeeded his father under that grant, not thinking that the townsmen knew when this term expired; but he was much mistaken in that matter, for the original feoffment and writings (out of which we collected this account) were carefully kept and preserved; and in 1608, when the ninety-nine years of the feoffment were expired, John Shreeve, and the rest of the townsmen, entered upon the premisses, ejecting the said Thomas Mildmay, and John Wood, his tenant, pleading that these lands were settled only for ninety-nine years to superstitious uses, and that during that time the priest had but eight marks, and when there were two, they had but twenty marks yearly, and that these stipends could be no longer than the settlement, which being now out, they entered upon these premisses, as the purchase of their forefathers, the then townsmen, and would employ them (as lawfully they could do) to the same uses of repairing their church, and their streets, as they always did; this they proved by an inquisition taken at Hoxne, in the very year that Edward VI. seized it; they proved that it was purchased by the contribution of the townsmen, by the book in which all the contributors names were entered; and in order to prove John Shreeve's entry good, they produced feoffments, shewing that the feoffees in the first feoffment above specified did infeoff Thomas Shardelowe, and others, whose successors were also feoffees. All this being plainly proved, the lands were given by verdict to the town; and in the 9th of James I. the king and the said Thomas Mildmay, and John Wood, renounced all right, title, claim, or demand, in the said lands, or in the 4l. per annum stipend, mentioned to go and be paid out thereof. This cost the parish so much, that in 1613 they sold to George Spalding part of this land, called Helbrook-field, in Framlingham

ham, containing ten acres, for 150*l.* with which they paid the charges, then feuted the rest by feoffment to the uses aforesaid, and then made a lease thereof to Edward Wickham. But though they had such success with this affair, they met with the contrary in relation to the other lands that were under the same limitation in the same feoffment, viz. a close called Chawmpeney's, in Difs, and Frenze, three pieces of land in Difs, and 18*d.* rent in Difs, Frenze, and Scole; the first piece laid in Frenze field, in Difs, and contained three acres, the second piece one acre, and the third piece two acres; for it appeared by feoffments prior to this, that these lands were given without limitation, to find lamps, anniversaries, &c. for ever, in Difs church; whereupon Chawmpeney's meadow, which at that time was in the hands of the lord of the manor of Frenze; under the king's grant, was by arbitration, January 9, 1610, confirmed to him and his heirs; and the other three pieces, which were then in the hands of Mr. James Blomefield, by the same arbitration was confirmed to him and his heirs, upon his paying 10*l.* to the churchwardens of Difs.

The lands that were given by Richard Edon in 1494 to pay the leet-fee, or common fine of Difs, for ever, and to keep his *obijt*, &c. were seized by Edward VI. and by him granted in 1547 to sir Ralph Sadler, knt. and Laurence Wennington, gent. to be held of his manor of East Greenwich, by fealty only; they gave them to Thomas Cook, of Norwich, gent. and William Nestun, of the same, who sold them to Thomas Aldred of Difs, and others.

In 1595 Mr. Thomas Fulcher gave 24*l.* with which the townsmen purchased three roods of copyhold land on the rectory manor, called Bell-Acre, in
Difs,

Difs, which they took up this year, and settled the profits to be employed to the relief of the poor of honest conversation in the said town.

December 25, 1601, Richard Fisher, of Difs, by his will obliged Edward, his son, to purchase half an acre freehold in Difs, within two years after his decease, and thereupon at his cost and charge to build a house sufficient for the dwelling of two poor people, and afterwards to infeof the churchwardens and chief inhabitants therein, who shall have power to place what poor people they please in those dwellings. In 1610 he bought a piece of land in Dirt-street, built a house thereon, and made a seoffment according to the will; this house is now down, and the land is called the Town-yard.

In 1605 John Kettleborough, of Flordon, gent. granted to John Okes, of Wymondham, sadler, a pightle of two acres in Roydon, called the Gravel-pits, reserving a free-rent of 6d. per ann. to his manor of Roydon-hall; this pightle in 1672 was purchased by the town of Difs, and is now their gravel-pits.

In 1618 Ralph Chapman, of Burston, granted to James Blomefield, senior, gent. and other seoffees, an annuity of 20s. issuing out of his meadow in Burston, called Shimpling close, abutting upon the highway leading from Burston to Shimpling, north, and upon the procession way dividing Burston and Shimpling, east; which meadow he purchased of John Shardelowe, gent. the money to be distributed by the chief part of the seoffees every Christmas-day, for the relief and comfort of sixty of the poorest householders, most comfortless and distressed poor people

people of Difs, viz. 4d. to each, as of the alms, gift, and donation, of the said Ralph.

In 1620 Mr. Sherman gave 45l. to purchase a close of William Yewles, called Yewles's pightle, which by measure contains four acres and six perches, two of which are free, and pay 4d. per ann. the other two acres are copyhold on the capital manor, and pay 1s. 4d. quit-rent. In 1635 James Blomefield, sen. gent. and others, were infeoffed to the following use, "that its rent should annually be laid out to pay the common fine, or leet-feet, of Walcote hamlet, in Difs."

In 1636 the townsmen purchased of Thomas Deynes, of Carleton-Rode, a parcel of ground in Cock-street, with a house thereon, being twenty-seven feet broad at the south end, and thirty-three feet at the north end; this is now the stall-house on Cock-street-green.

October 15, 1658, Richmond Girling, of Old Buckenham, gent. by will proved in the prerogative court, gave to the poor of Difs 11s. per ann. for ever, the sexton to have 1s. a year for mending the grave of his late wife; for which payment he tied his houses and lands in Stradbrook, which he gave to Ralph King, his brother.

In 1716 Robert Buxton, of St. Margaret's, South Elmham, esq. lord of the manor of Heywood-hall, gave to this parish a small house, called the Hopper-house, lying at the east end of Difs moor, which he also manumised, it being copyhold before it came into his hands. This is now used as a pest-house.

Mr. Robert Burroughs built an alms-house of brick on the east side of the church-yard, for four poor widows.

Here is a good regulated workhouse, which was built about 1730, by the inhabitants, for an alms-house, standing on the moor.

The commons are many, but not large; they are called by the names of Heywood-green, Westbrook-green, Walcote-green, Cock-street-green, the Moor, (on which the custom is never to put on any sheep, as appears by the town books) and Penning's-green, part of which, time out of mind, (as appears by the churchwardens book) hath been always inclosed at May-Day, and so kept till Lammas, on which day there is yearly paid to the churchwardens 1l. 6s. 8d. rent by those that mow it, viz. the tenement, Baxter's, that stands by it, hath always one half of the crop, and pays half the rent; the other half goes by turns to every tenement on the green, viz. Mr. Cason's, Mr. Pettoe's, Mr. Jubb's twice, because this is two farms laid into one.

The charity-school was first erected at Palgrave, in Suffolk, in 1711, and two years after removed hither. Mr. Briars, rector of Difs, preached a sermon, which was published at the first meeting of the gentlemen and clergy for encouraging this school, which he dedicated to Charles bishop of Norwich, (whose chaplain he was) in which it appears that the rector of Palgrave began it, at whose request that parish set apart a large room belonging to the town for that purpose, and subscribed with him 10l. per ann. for its maintenance; the neighbouring gentlemen and clergy had then subscribed between 20 and 30l. besides casual gifts, which then came to about 12l.

The

The school was opened the January before; ten boys of that parish were taught and cloathed, six more taught, but not cloathed. This school is now kept at Difs, where the master hath his dwelling in part of the late Guild-hall, and keeps his school in another part; there are now ten boys cloathed and taught.

The grammar-school is kept above, in the same house, where the master hath lodgings, and 10l. per annum; but this at the voluntary contribution of the parish.

Difs is a neat compact market town, situated on a rising hill, having a large bason of water of about twelve acres on its south part, which they call the Meer, (hence the Difs farthings have a shield wavy for their device); it is compassed about half round with houses and gardens, which look very pleasantly from the water; but it being almost a standing lake, having only a small run or two into it, and one only out, and all the filth of the town centering here, besides the many conveniences that are placed over it, makes the water very bad, and altogether useles, and so foul, that when it purges itself, which it does once a year, it stinks exceedingly and sometimes the fish rise in great numbers, so thick that they are easily taken; they are chiefly roach and eels; it is very deep, being plumb'd, it was found eight yards in the deepest place, which is by the common staithe; the liberty hereof belongs to the lord of the manor of Difs, and without his leave no man can keep a boat, or fish, except at his own staithe, where every one can lay in bow-nets, leaps, eel-poles, or any other engines, to catch what fish they can there, without the lord's licence. If the passage out of this meer be stopped up, it is of great damage, by overflowing the
yards

yards that lie round it, wherefore it is viewed at the leet, and if it be not clear, the tanner to whom it always belongs to keep it so is amerced, as is the township if they do not keep up the rails at its mouth, for want of which, in 1635, a man as he watered his horses was drowned, and the town was *fined*. It is of great use in case of a fire, as was experienced in 1640, when the great fire happened in that street; all the wells and pumps being dry, the town was saved by this water.

The chief streets are, Smith-street, or Mound-street, so called from the mound, or hill, that rises the whole length of it; Tem-street, or Meer-street, which lies along the Meer's side; Dirt-street, (properly enough so called) Market-street; and St. Nicholas'-street.

The hamlets are, Cock-street, where the fair is kept, October 28, Walcote, Wolfey, Heywood, and Westbrook.

The market is kept weekly on Friday, the chief of which consists in the linen cloth manufacture, for which this market is famous, great quantities of it being sold here. The streets being newly paved, is a great ornament, as well as service, to the town.

In 1602 there were 400 communicants; and at this time (1735) it contains 240 families, and about 2000 souls.

It is now assessed to the king's tax at 2300l. In the civil wars, during the association, when the public charges were levied by the month, there were two valuations made of this town, one at 2616l. per ann. the other at 2700l. per ann. which far exceeds the present

present real value. It paid 7l. for every tenth when the taxes were assessed that way. The leet-fee for Difs, and its hamlets, now paid to the capital lord, is 1l. 13s. 4d. per annum.

The town of Difs is about twenty miles south-west of Norwich, twenty-two from Bury St. Edmund's, and thirty-six from Yarmouth. It is situated near the southern extremity of Norfolk, and, for an in-land town, is one of the most agreeable we have seen.

FERSFIELD is bounded on the east and south by Briffingham, on the west by Lopham, on the north by Kenninghall, the hundred of Difs extending to the utmost limits of this parish, and no further. The name of it is very differently written, as Fersefella, Fervefella, Ferefeud, Feyrfeud, Fairfeud, Fairvill, and Fersfell, all which seem to signify a fair fee, or village.

One part of it was very early in the abbot of St. Edmund's Bury, being given about 963, along with Briffingham, by Osulph le Sire, and Lady Laverine, his wife, and was valued with that manor in the Confessor's and Conqueror's surveys; the fee not being mentioned in Domesday-book under Fersfield, it is evident it must be included in that manor, with which it was infeoffed by the abbot soon after the conquest, in Roger le Bigot, earl of Norfolk. Earl Roger held three fees of that abbey; one in Norton, one in Briffingham, and one in Fersfield, for which he paid nothing to the guard of Norwich-castle, the abbot being answerable for 7s. every twenty weeks. The fee in Fersfield was held by sir Robert de Bosco, or Bois, and at the death of earl Roger, who died in

1107. it went to William*. his son and heir, and from him to Hugh Bigot. his brother and heir, who infeoffed sir William de Bosco in it in the time of Henry II. whose heir, sir Robert de Bosco, held it in 1165; it was near one half of the town, and was ever after held of the earls of Norfolk, who held it of the abbot of St. Edmund's Bury.

The other part belonged to Alsius, a thane (or nobleman) of Edward the Confessor's; the demesnes being valued at two carucates, it was then an extensive manor, part of Burston, Briffingham, and Shimpling, belonging to it. The manor, with the berewic, and that part in Burston that belonged to it, was then valued at 60s. but by the conquest was risen to 7l. 6s. 8d. and all that belonged to it was then valued at 12l. 6s. 8d. of which the freemen paid 10s. 8d. It was at the survey two miles long, and one broad, and paid to the Dane-gelt 7d. being at that time in the king's hands, under the management of earl Godric, and the soc and sac of all the free-men in the hundred that held less than thirty acres belonged to it.

Thus it passed with the crown some time, but was afterwards given to the Bigots, then earls of Norfolk, to be held at one fee, and Roger Bigot infeoffed sir William de Bosco in it, as Hugh, his son, afterwards did in the other fee, so that he had the whole town, except a wood, and 19s. 4d. rent belonging thereto, which had been held a long time by the earl of Arundel; but the jury knew not how, or of whom, the earl had that part before the Bigots had the town
from

* In the 12th of Henry II. he certified, that he had 125 knights fees of the old feoffment, and 35 of the new; he died in 1177.

from the crown ; this also came afterwards by purchase to the Bois' ; William du Bois aforefaid, at his death, left the whole town, manor, and advowson, to fir Robert de Bosco, or Bois, of Fersfield, knt. his eldest son and heir, who in 1165 held it of the earl Marshal at two fees. This fir Robert at his death left Gilbert de Bois, knt. his eldest son and heir, who was succeeded by his next brother, fir Robert de Bosco, of Fersfield, knt. He was a man that purchased much ; for besides this, he bought the manor of Burston, in this hundred, and several other lands in divers adjacent towns. In 1285 he had the following privileges allowed in *cire* at Norwich, to his manor of Fersfield, viz. a pillory, assize of bread and beer, view of frank-pledge, waif and stray. He married Amy, (Amicia) widow of Thomas Hasting, of Giffing, and suing for her dower, recovered, and had the manor of Giffing settled on her for life ; fir Robert died in 1298 seised of Fersfield, then valued at 10l. 13s. 6d. per ann. of which there is a fine extent in the escheat-roll, in which the Great-wood, or Homewood, from which the family first took their name, is mentioned ; he is found also to be seised of a manor in Denton, another in Burston, and of Garboldisham, &c. and Robert, his son and heir, had all his manors, &c. except an eighth part of Fersfield, or a quarter of that fee which was held of Bury abbey, which he gave to John de Bois, his second son ; this John built a new hall upon it, and settled in it, calling his part,

The MANOR OF NEW-HALL, which name he himself is called by in several evidences, and in particular in the *Nomina Villarum* of the 9th of Edward II. in which John de Nova Aula, or Newhall, is said to hold a manor here: he lived to the year 1335, and

dying without issue, his manor reverted to the great manor again.

The advowson of Fersfield, and forty acres of land there, were given to William de Bois, clerk, third son of the said Robert; he was rector of Fersfield, &c. In 1305 he granted the land and advowson to sir Robert, his eldest brother.

Sir Robert de Bosco, who succeeded in 1298, had two fees, which formerly were the Bigots, one of which was in Smalburgh, the other here, and another in Fersfield, held of the abbot of St. Edmund. Sir Robert at his death in 1311 was seised of Fersfield Denton, Garboldisham, &c. leaving sir Robert du Bois, knt. his only son and heir, then very young, and one daughter, Alice; he died a bachelor in 1333, leaving his whole estate to Alice, his only sister and heiress, then married to sir John Howard, junior, knt. who was upon sir Robert's death possessed of Fersfield, and Garboldisham manors and advowsons, with Denton, &c. She lived to 1371, and at her death left issue by the said John, to which the whole inheritance of the Bois' descended.

The family of Bosco, or Bois, we are apt to think was at first a branch of the Bigots, their arms varying only in field and colour.

They surnamed themselves de Bosco, or Bois, from the great wood which joined to their mansion-house, and was not cleared till queen Elizabeth's time; *boscus*, in Latin, or *bois*, in French, signifying a wood. The whole generation continually resided here, from William, who was first enfeoffed in it, to Alice, who was the last of that line; they were always a
separate

separate family from the de Boscos, of Lincolnshire, or those of Ingham, in Norfolk.

In 1233 sir John Howard, jun. knt. was seized of the manors and advowsons of Fersfield, Garboldisham, Brookhall, &c. in right of his wife. This sir John was grandson of Wm. Howard, of Wiggenshall, in the hundred of Marshland, a judge in the court of Common Pleas in the time of Edward I. and son of John Howard, gentleman of the bed-chamber to that king. In the 10th of Edward III. he was constituted admiral of the king's whole fleet, from the mouth of the Thames northward, being then in great esteem at court, as may be collected from the many favors he obtained; he was with that king at the siege of Calais, being then Admiral, and had in pay with him one banneret, six knights, thirty-six men of arms, and thirty-five archers on foot. In 1310 he had the king's letters of protection at his going into Scotland with the earl of Cornwall, the king being then at York. In 1317 was sheriff of Norfolk, and upon his second going into Scotland, by the king's order, he made G. de Ely his attorney, to account in the Exchequer for his office. In 1339 he recovered twenty marks by action against sir John Segrave, and his servants, for cutting down trees, and carrying away the soil of Fersfield manor, under pretence of cleaning the great ditch round his park, (now called Lopham park).

Robert Howard, his son, died before his father, in 1388, the 3d of July, so that he was never possessed of the estate, leaving sir John Howard, knt. his son and heir, on whose decease the estate descended to Margaret, his widow, and at her death it went to sir John Howard, knt. her son, who was retained upon his knighthood to serve the king for his life. The 10th

of March, in the 12th of Richard II. he married, first, Margaret, daughter and heiress of sir John Plais, of Weeting, and had a son named John, who was heir, after her decease, to sir John Plais, his grandfather; she died in 1391, after which sir John married again to Alice, daughter and heiress of sir William Tendring, knt. who died in 1426, and was buried in the south part of Stoke Neyland church, under the same stone with sir John, her husband, and by her father, sir William Tendring. Sir Robert Howard, knt. their eldest son, married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, whose son, John, was the first duke of this family. In 1432 sir John Howard, knt. held Fersfield of John Mowbray, duke of Norfolk, of his manor of Fornet, at two fees and an half; and in 1435 he made his will, in which he gave Fersfield, Garboldisham, &c. to his grand-daughter, Elizabeth, then countess of Oxford, and her issue. John Howard, esq. his son and heir by his first wife, in 1408 released to sir John, his father, and Alice, his second wife, and their heirs, all his right in them, so that by this release the fee was wholly in his father, who did not settle it as was designed, and therefore he was impowered to give it by will, as he did, to his grand-daughter.

This Elizabeth married John Vere, earl of Oxford, and carried the manors of Fersfield, Garboldisham, Brookhall, and Foulmere, in Cambridgeshire, with their advowsons, into that family, (together with the inheritance of the Plais' and Waltons) all which by the will of sir John Howard, her grandfather, were entailed on sir Robert Howard, his eldest son by his second wife, if the said Elizabeth had no heirs. But because the branches of this honorable family are very numerous, we shall here shew that branch only through which this manor passed.

This

This John was the twelfth earl Oxford of the Vere family ; he was knighted by the king at Leicester, on Whitsunday, the 4th of Henry VI. the king himself having received that honor at the hands of his uncle, the duke of Bedford. In 1428, being then a ward, he married Elizabeth aforesaid, *without licence*; but for 2000l. paid into the Exchequer, he was pardoned that transgression, and before the end of the year, making proof of his age, had livery of his lands. In 1434 he was licensed to travel to the Holy Land, with twelve persons in his company ; the year after he went into Picardy for the relief of Calais, and doing his homage, had livery of all those lands which by the death of sir John Howard, knt. in 1437, came to Elizabeth, his wife. In 1438 he was joined with John duke of Norfolk to treat for a perpetual peace between France and England. In 1453 he was one of those great men that undertook to keep the seas for three years next following, being allowed the subsidies of tonnage, and poundage, then granted for that service ; but when Edward IV. gained the crown, the Lancastrian party (of which this earl was one) soon fell ; for that king in the 1st year of his reign called a parliament, wherein Henry VI. and all his lineage were disinherited, and this earl, and Aubrey, his eldest son, attainted, and beheaded on the 26th of February, 1461, and were buried in the Austin Friars, London. His estates were all seized, except those which were of the proper inheritance of his widow, all which she retained, and among them these manors and advowsons, which she held in her own right, and name also, till 1472, at which time John, her son, (who afterwards was earl of Oxford) kept St. Michael's Mount, in Cornwall, against the king, which made her fear ill measures might be taken against her, and therefore to secure her estate, and prepare against the worst, she and her cooffees infeoffed

Richard duke of Gloucester (who was fourth son of Richard duke of York, brother to the king) in the manors and advowsons of Garboldisham-Howards, Fersfield, Weeting, Tostrees, Knapton, Eastwinch, Wiggshall, and Littleshall, in Norfolk, others in Suffolk and Cambridge, and several others in other counties, by two deeds, one dated the 9th of January, in the 12th of Edward IV. the other the 9th of February, in the 13th of the same reign; and by these means she enjoyed them to her death, and left them to John de Vere, her son, who afterwards became the thirteenth earl of Oxford, lord Bulbeck, Samford, and Scales, great chamberlain, and admiral of England, who after his father's death adhered to Henry VI. in order to his restoration, and after the loss of the battle at Barnet he entered St. Michael's Mount, in Cornwall, and kept it some time against the king; but being at last taken, he and lord Beaumont were sent to safe custody in the castle of Hamins, in Picardy, and in the next parliament was attainted with George, his brother. But in the 2d of Richard III. being still prisoner in that castle, and observing what hopes of aid Henry earl of Richmond had from the French, and others, in order to gain the crown, he and sir James Blount, the governor of the castle, and sir John Fortescue, porter of the gates of Calais, got thence, and came to Montargès, to the earl of Richmond, who received him with much joy, being a person of great nobility and integrity, and very expert in military affairs; when king Richard heard that this castle had declared for the earl of Richmond, through the contrivance of this earl, he ordered out part of the garrison of Calais to regain the castle, upon which those within it sent a messenger to the earl of Richmond for more aid, who sent this earl with a number of soldiers, who by his skilful conduct drew off those in the castle without any loss; after

after which he went to the earl at Paris, with whom he came into England, and marched to Bosworth, where king Richard encountered them, and by the prudent conduct of this earl the battle in a great measure was gained, and the earl of Richmond crowned by the name of Henry VII. who immediately restored him to his honor and estate; this earl presented here in 1505; he had two wives; Margaret, daughter of Richard Nevile, earl of Salisbury, and Elizabeth, daughter of sir Richard Scroop, knt. and widow of William lord Beaumont; she enjoyed this manor after his death, and presented here in 1527; upon his dying without issue in 1512, his estate and honor went to John Vere, the fourteenth earl of Oxford, only son of sir George Vere, knt. brother of the last earl. by Margery, daughter and heiress of William Stafford, of Froome, in Dorsetshire, esq. the said George dying before his brother. This John married Ann, daughter to the duke of Norfolk, and died in 1526, without issue, leaving all his estate to his three sisters, his coheiresses, of which Elizabeth, the eldest, was married to sir Anthony Wingfield, of Letheringham, in Suffolk, knt. Dorothy, the second, to John Nevile, lord Latimer, between which two the inheritance was divided; for Ursula, the third, married sir Edward Knightley, but having no issue, in 1599, when she died, her part came to the heirs of sir Anthony Wingfield, and the lord Latimer.

Hitherto the manor and advowson went together; but in 1533 they were divided; for sir Anthony Wingfield aforesaid, and John Nevile, lord Latimer, coheirs of John earl of Oxford, exchanged the manors of Fersfield, and Garboldisham, with Thomas duke of Norfolk, for the manor of Dalby-Chacomb, in Northamptonshire, and settled them on the duke and his heirs, reserving both the advowsons to them
and

and their heirs, all which was confirmed by parliament in the 25th and 26th years of Henry VIII. so that now the advowsons of Fersfield and Garboldisham were one moiety in the Wingfields, and the other in the lord Latimer.

The moiety that belonged to the Wingfields went from sir Anthony afore said to sir Robert, his eldest son, who in 1595 died seised of a moiety of the advowsons of Fersfield, and Garboldisham, which advowsons he held jointly with Catherine, countess dowager of Henry earl of Northumberland, sir Thomas Cecil, and Dorothy, his wife, sir John Danvers, and Elizabeth, his wife, William Cornwallis, esq. and Lucy, his wife, daughters and coheiresses of John Nevile, lord Latimer. In the family it remained till sir Henry Wingfield, of Easton, in Suffolk, sold his estate in 1706 to Mrs. Ann Wroth, in trust for William Henry earl of Rochford, who left it to William, his son, who deceasing without issue, the right honorable Frederick earl of Rochford inherited.

The present patron of Garboldisham is Crisp Molineux, esq. member for Lynn, who purchased the advowson of the present earl of Rochford, (1780) and Thomas Lambert, clerk, presented to Fersfield church in 1752.

The other moiety went to John Nevile, knt. lord Latimer, who upon the death of Richard Nevile, lord Latimer, his father, in 1530, had livery of his inheritance, and upon that insurrection in Yorkshire, called the "Pilgrimage of Grace," he, with the lords Scroop, Lumley, and Darcy, was made choice of by the rebels to treat with the duke of Norfolk, general of the king's forces, then advancing against them; he died in 1542, leaving John lord Latimer, who died
in

1577, leaving Percy, Cecil, Cornwallis, and Danvers, his heirs, in right of his four daughters, whom they had married, who at his death were heirs to all the manors, advowsons, &c. that he died seised of, among which the moiety of this advowson, and that of Garboldisham, with the manors and advowsons of Weeting, Middleton, Scales-hoe, and Tittleshall, in Norfolk, as heirs of the said John, one of the coheiresses of Vere earl of Oxford, and so it was held jointly by them till 1595.

The manor being conveyed in 1533 to the most noble Thomas duke of Norfolk, and his heirs, he peaceably enjoyed it till the 38th of Henry VIII. in which year, after many signal services both to his king and country, he was suddenly committed to the Tower, through sinister suggestions to the king, and was attainted in parliament the 20th of January, with his eldest son, Henry earl of Surrey, but eight days before that king's death, and then it was seised by the crown. In 1554 he died at Kenninghall, leaving his estate much impaired without any fault of his own, having suffered so much by the various ebbs and flows of fortune that he had gone through. After his death Thomas Howard, his grandson, son of Henry Howard, earl of Surrey, who was beheaded January 19, 1547, in his father's life-time, was fully restored in blood and estate in the 1st of queen Mary, *anno* 1553, at which time this manor, among other possessions, was redelivered to him, it having been settled during its being in the crown on lady Mary, (now queen) towards the maintenance of her household, it lying very convenient for Kenninghall-palace, at which she generally resided after it was settled on her. This Thomas in the 2d of that queen was made commander against the Kentsish men, then in arms. In the 1st of Elizabeth was installed knight

knight of the garter, and in the 3d of that queen made lieutenant general of the northern parts, and six years after honored by the French king with the knighthood of the order of St. Michael; but on a suspicion that he designed to marry the queen of Scots, he was beheaded on Tower-hill, upon the 2d of June, between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, in the 14th of Elizabeth, 1572, being much lamented by all men; for he was a man good to all, remarkable for his hospitality, even in those times when it abounded every where.

The names of the peers that passed sentence upon him may be seen in fir Richard Baker's Chronicle, and his dying words in Mr. Hare's collections, in Caius College library.

At his attainder the queen seized on this manor, and kept it some time, and then restored it to Philip earl of Arundel, eldest son of Thomas duke of Norfolk, by his first wife, Mary, daughter and one of the heiresses to Henry Fitz-Alan, earl of Arundel, the said Philip being then restored in blood; but soon after, several things being laid to his charge, he was sentenced to death.

At his attainder the manor was again seized, and by letters patent, dated April 17, 1582, the manor-house, lands, and demesnes, all which were formerly reserved to the use of the household of the duke of Norfolk, were lett to William Dixe, and William Cantrell, the manor being in the queen, in whose name the courts were held, and thus it continued to 1595, when Philip earl of Arundel died in the Tower, leaving Thomas Howard, his only son and heir, who inherited the manor; for on the 13th of May, 1599, he conveyed it to his trustees. In 1602,
in

the 1st of James I. he was restored to all the estate and honor that his father enjoyed, by which he became earl of Arundel and Surrey. In 1611 he was made knight of the garter; and in 1620 earl marshal of England, for life, with 2000l. per ann. pension, and chief justice of all the forests on the north side of Trent. In the 16th of Charles I. 1640, general of the army raised against the Scots, and in respect of his lineal descent from Thomas Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, (a younger son to Edward I.) was by letters patent, bearing date at Oxford, June 6, in the 20th of Charles I. advanced to the title of earl of Norfolk; shortly after which the wars breaking out, and he grown ancient and unfit for military service, he obtained leave of the king to travel; whereupon going to Padua, in Italy, he died there, October the 4th, 1646, and was buried at Arundel, in Sussex. He sold a great part of the estate in this county, and leased out other parts for a long time. In 1604 his trustees aforesaid, with sir William Howard, of Axminster, in Devonshire, mortgaged this manor, with others, for 1800l. to William Harvey, of the Savoy, James Guiccardin, of Folshtun, in Essex, and Thomas Ayloffe, of Lincoln's-Inn, esq.

In 1608 John Holland, of Kenninghall, esq. John Cornwallis, of Earl-Soham, in Suffolk, esq. and Robert Causfield, of St. Clement's Danes, London, granted to Joan Woodward, of that parish, an annuity of 44l. per annum out of this manor, for 450l. paid by her.

In 1610 John Davis, bailiff of the earl's manor here, accounted for 9l. per annum quit rent, 5l. for the scite of the manor and demesnes, Thomas Brewster being farmer of the Lodge. In 1619 these estates were leased out at 600l. per ann.

Henry

Henry earl of Arundel, lord Mowbray, and Maltravers, died at Arundel, in Suffex, leaving his estate to Thomas Howard, his eldest son, who in 1660, the 13th of Charles II. was restored by act of parliament to the title of duke of Norfolk, which he enjoyed during his life, and then upon his dying without issue it descended to Henry lord Howard, of Castle Rising, earl of Norwich, his next brother, who in 1671 had the marshalship of England limited to the heirs male of his body, at whose death Henry earl of Arundel, his eldest son, succeeded, and was made governor of Windsor-castle, upon the death of prince Rupert, and was installed knight of the garter in the 1st of James II. In 1688, upon the landing of the prince of Orange, this duke being then in Norfolk, he immediately declared for him, and brought over that, and some neighbouring counties, to his interest; for which, soon after his royal highness had accepted the crown of these realms, he was sworn of his privy council, and so continued to the time of his death, in 1701; he left no issue, upon which his honor and estate went to his brother's son, Thomas duke of Norfolk, whose father, Thomas lord Howard, upon king James's withdrawing, went with him into France and Ireland, from which last place, as he returned to Brest, he was cast away in 1689, leaving five sons and one daughter, of which this Thomas, his eldest son, at his uncle's death became duke. Henry Howard, the second son, left no issue. Edward Howard, the third son, upon the death of Henry, his eldest brother, became duke of Norfolk, and lord of this manor. Richard, the fourth son, is dead. Philip, the fifth son, is also dead, and left a daughter, married to lord Petre, who resides at Buckenham, the seat of his late father-in-law. This Philip, brother of the late duke of Norfolk, had an only son, much esteemed, who died greatly lamented before the late duke, by
whose

whose decease the title and estate went to Charles Howard, esq. of Greystock, in the county of Cumberland, the present duke, (1781). His eldest son, the present earl of Surrey, has read his recantation of the Roman Catholic religion this year, before the honorable and most reverend Frederick Cornwallis, lord archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England, and is become a Protestant, so that the honor of FIRST PEER of England is likely to return again into a PROTESTANT branch of the ILLUSTRIOUS family of the HOWARDS.

The lord of this manor hath a court leet as well as court baron, which was always kept annually till 1719, at which time Mr. Bath, then steward to his grace, gave notice, that he would keep leet no longer, because there was no leet fee*, from which time there hath been no leet kept here.

The customs of this manor are as follow: the fines are at the lord's will, and the copyhold descends to the eldest son; it gives no dower; the tenants have liberty either to erect or pull down houses on the copyhold, at their own pleasure, and to cut down timber on the copyhold without licence, as also to plant and cut down all manner of wood and timber on all the commons and wastes against their own lands, by the name of an out-run, or free-board, and to dig marl, or clay, and cut furze and bushes on the commons and waste.

There

* No leet-fee, because it was the Conquerer's own manor: The leet never belonging to the hundred, it being granted with the manor, and all its royalties, before the hundred was granted from the crown.

There were two other small manors, or tenements, in Thweyth, or Whait, a hamlet to Fersfield and Briffingham; the one was called Rose's, to which belonged fourteen acres, adjoining to the tenement, with other small rents. This was some time copyhold of the manor of Fersfield, and by the lord thereof was granted to one Thomas Rose, who was owner of it in 1443, and soon after sold it, with all its rents, services, and appurtenances, to John Lancaster, junior, esq. lord of Boyland, who united it to that manor.

The other was called IRELAND's, being originally a part of Fersfield manor, which in the time of Edward II. was granted by the lord to one Jeffery of Peasenhall, from whom it was first called Peasenhall's, and from him it went to John of Ireland, from whom it had its present name. They both constantly attended the manor of Boyland, and with it were sold to the Norfolk family, in which they continued till March 12, 1651, when Henry earl of Arundel, and his trustees, among other large estates, conveyed to Ann Henshaw, widow, and Thomas Henshaw, esq. and their heirs for ever, all the demesnes of the capital manor of Briffingham, now called the Hall-farm, and Hall-grounds, and also all that tenement called Rose's, with sixteen acres of land thereto belonging, lying in Briffingham and Fersfield, together with all that tenement called Ireland's, lying in Fersfield aforefaid, with a certain wood lying there, called Winley-wood, and two other inclosures, called Marketfield, with all other the royalties, privileges, and appurtenances thereunto belonging, all which were to be held free without any reserved rent whatsoever; the said Thomas and Ann, Feb. 3, 1656, sold all the estates to James Perrot, of Ammerham, in Bucks, esq.

May 13, 1724, James Perrot, of Northleigh, in Oxfordshire, Esq. conveyed these two tenements, &c. with all their rights and appurtenances, to Henry Blomefield, of Fersfield, gent. and his heirs; the said Henry, by deed dated the 19th of March, 1731, conveyed Winley-wood and Marketfield to the late rev. Francis Blomefield, who at his death bequeathed the two tenements with all their right and appurtenances to Peter Blomefield, his second son.

The commons in the time of Henry VII. were very different from what they are now, for all the Southfield was then common, which contained 110 acres by measure, all which was inclosed by the lord, with the tenants consent, in lieu of two market fields, which were sold off by a former lord. An equal quantity of that which is now called the Great-common was laid out, by which means the two greens, called Fersfield-green, and Old-green, were joined together, and laid into one common; that part which is now Forty-acres, being part of Fersfield-green, and the part from the town meadow to Daw's close, being Old-green: and thus they continued, till Thomas duke of Norfolk, in the time of Henry VIII. desiring to make his great park at Kenninghall (in which his palace stood) every way compleat, inclosed 44 acres of Fersfield-green into the said park, because it extended like a harp (as it is said in the evidences) into it, and very near to his palace. Upon this the inhabitants petitioned his grace for relief, who ordered his bailiff thereupon to assign them other lands, to the full value and quantity of their land inclosed. But it seems this was neglected to be done, for soon after they brought an action, and seized upon their antient common, which had been thus inclosed; upon which the duke ordered certain demesne lands of his manor of Fersfield, and others of his manor

of Lopham, which joined to the said common, to be laid out to the inhabitants of Fersfield, in recompence for the 44 acres inclosed ; but it happened at this very time, that the duke was attainted, and the manor seized into the king's hands, upon which the workmen were stopped levelling the banks ; upon this the inhabitants laid the case before the Commissioners for the survey of the manor when it was seized, as appears upon the survey, who took the lands that were to be laid out to the king's use, together with the inclosed 44 acres, and permitted the inhabitants to enjoy their antient 110 acres of common, which had been inclosed, and which they had seized again in lieu thereof, with which all parties were satisfied ; and thus they continued till James I. when Thomas earl of Arundel and Surrey, desirous to perfect the park, and to make the demesnes of his manor of Fersfield as compleat as they were before this common was seized by the inhabitants, came to an agreement, upon which the said tenants and inhabitants yielded up to the said earl, all their right in the said common, which they had seized for themselves and their heirs for ever, on condition that the said earl should tie that part of the Southfield, called the Great-ground, lying on the south side of the church of Fersfield, to be always unploughed, and to be seized and entered upon at any time by the said inhabitants, for want of performance of any thing in the indentures contained, " that they may remaine, " contynue, and be for ever hereafter perpetuall, " stable, and firme to posterity, for ever to endure." These indentures bear date the 20th of November, in the 8th year of the reign of James I. 1610.

Twayt, or Whait-green, also belongs to this parish and Briffingham, where they are intercommoners, each having a drift ; it was appropriated to Tweyth, or
Tweyt,

Tweyt, a hamlet which belonged to both these towns, and was so called from Hervey de Tweyt, who lived in 1340, and had a good estate here. It now contains between twenty and thirty acres, though it was much larger formerly; for a contention arising between the lord of these towns and the tenants, concerning the customs of the manors, it was jointly agreed between them, that upon confirmation of their old customs, and the addition of this new one, viz. to waste their copyhold houses without licence, (which before that time they could not do) they should yield up 50 acres of this common to the lord's sole use, which was done accordingly, and the lord enjoys it at this day, it being lett with Byland-hall farm, and is now called the Cow-pastures: this was about 1571.

There is no other common but Winley-green, to which Lopham park joins, and had its freeboard on this common. All the parks hereabouts had that privilege, which was to plant whatever bushes and trees they would against the parks, which the inhabitants could not cut, (as they do, and always have done, all other trees, bushes, &c. on the commons in these manors) but were to belong to the lord for the game-keepers to kill their game from, and to hinder escapes from the park. Briffingham are inter-commoners here. All the trees on the commons, that are out of the freeboards of the lord, or the out-runs of the tenants, were always taken down and stowed by the churchwardens for the use of the poor, and the ponds on all the commons that are out of the freeboards, and out-runs, are to be kept clean by the inhabitants.

The benefactors were: Jeffry Ellingham, of Fersfield, who by will, dated April 18, 1493. gave four marks to build a south porch, and ordered his execu-

tors to make a new bell-follar* in the church, like that at East Harling, that the procession might go under it while the bells ring. He gave also his messuage and tenement in which he lived, lying in Fersfield afore said, with all his lands inclosed, and the privileges thereto belonging, together with one pigtle inclosed, and half an acre of meadow lying in the common meadow of Fersfield afore said, to Margaret, his wife, for life, and at her decease to the use of the inhabitants of the said town, for ever; all which were to be vested in feoffees for divers uses, with condition, that if those uses should fail, (as it hath happened since) then the clear profits arising from the said premises should be laid out in repairing and beautifying the parish church for ever; and all the rest of his lands he ordered his executors to sell, with these restrictions, that the purchaser should *not* be a gentleman, nor have any other lands or tenements in the world, and that he or they should live in the houses, and occupy the lands themselves, to the advantage of the parish.

The farm is now in feoffees hands to the use of the church, about which the profits are expended, either in repairing, beautifying, or purchasing proper ornaments to it: it is now lett at 18l. per ann. and pays a yearly quit-rent to the manor of Fersfield of 10s. 9d. a year.

July 2, 1589, Matthew Walter, of Bliford, in Suffolk, gave to the poor people of Fersfield 20s. and to the poor people of Briffingham 20s. This legacy is yearly paid to the rector and churchwardens, and is distributed among the poor at their discretion.

In

* This was taken down in 1722, when the gallery was built.

In 1687 the estate belonged to Robert Brodwell, of Westhall, in Suffolk, and now, 1735, to Mr. William Crowefoot, of Beccles, who pays the money without any deduction for taxes, these lands being exempted on account of the charity.

In 1595 John Dalton surrendered half a rood of land in Billing's-meadow to the use of the inhabitants of Fersfield, for ever. This was sold by general consent in the year 1600.

There is also half an acre of land, called the Town Patch, which is freehold, lett at 10s. 6d. per annum, now vested in feoffees to the use of the church, but by whom it was given we do not find. There is another small piece of ground, which was taken off the common to build a town-house upon, and also a small piece, called Beck's-yard, on which a town-house formerly stood.

Fersfield Rectory being under the value of ten marks, pays no first-fruits, though it does yearly tenths, it being undischarged. It hath a rectory-house, and fifty-one acres of glebe, and all tithes are due in their proper kind. It was taxed at eight marks in the old value.

In 1603 the rector returned that there were seventy-five communicants in the parish, and that sir Thomas Cornwallis and Anthony Wingfield were patrons by turns. It is valued in the king's books at 6l. 6s. 8d.

The prior of the priory of the monks of St. Mary at Thetford (now called the abbey) had two tithe sheaves out of every three of all the wheat growing on certain lands in this parish, which portion of tithes was given them by Wm. de Bosco, or Bois, in the 11th

century, soon after their foundation, and was confirmed among other donations by William Bigot, the principal lord of the fee, of whom it was held by the Bois': the rector afterwards came to a perpetual composition with the prior for this portion of tithes, for which he and his successors were to pay for ever an annual pension of 6s. 8d. which is now paid to his grace the duke of Norfolk, to whose predecessors the said priory, with all that belonged to it, was given at its dissolution: and this was the only religious house that was ever concerned in this parish, except the priory of St. James at Old Buckenham, the prior of which held lands here, that were purchased of sir John Verdon, along with the Priory Manor of Brisingham, all which passed as that did.

The Rev. Francis Blomefield, author of "An Essay towards an History of Norfolk," was instituted to Fersfield at the presentation of Henry Blomefield, gent. patron of this turn, September 13, 1729.

In 1752 the Rev. Samuel Carter was presented to the rectory of Fersfield, *alias* Farsfield, by Thomas Lambert, clerk.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle, whose effigy was painted on the wall over the north door, though now whitened over: who was the first founder of a church here we know not, but the present nave, in all probability, was built by sir Robert de Bosco, knt. about the latter end of the 12th century, whose third son, William de Bosco, priest, built the chancel, and reserved an arch in the north wall for his own burial, his father, sir Robert, being buried close by him. After this, about 1308, sir Robert de Bosco, eldest son of sir Robert, began to build an additional south aisle, with a chapel at its east end, in

in which he reserved an arch under the south window for his own grave; but dying in 1311, the work stood some time unfinished. Sir John Howard, jun. knt. finished the work, and adorned the sepulchre of the said sir Robert, his father-in-law, and the windows of the aisle, with the arms of his own and wife's family, and both were buried in the chapel dedicated to St. Anne, at the east end of this aisle; it was he also that built the steeple, as the arms carved in stone plainly prove. The south porch and belfry were built in 1494, with money given by Jeffry Ellingham, of Fersfield, for that use. It is a small building, but in good repair, the nave, chancel, and south porch being tiled, and the south aisle leaded; the steeple is square, and hath but two bells, though it had three till the second was split by a tempest about 126 years since, together with the steeple, which is now supported by iron cramps; part of its metal was sold in 1708 towards repairing the church, which was then new paved, together with the chancel, at the charge of Mr. John Barker, then rector, by whom the chancel was new roofed.

At the step of the altar lie two black marbles; one inscribed to—*Philippa Felgate, wife of Mr. William Felgate, of London, Skinner, who died January 18, 1645, ætat. sue 62.*—The other to—*Anne Frere, wife of Mr. Thomas Frere, citizen and Skinner, of London, who died January 25, 1643, aged 29.*

On a small black marble in the altar-rails,—*Here lies buried Henry Blomefield, gent. who died November 3, 1670. Ann, his first wife, lies at his right hand, and Diana, his second, at his left.*

Under an arch in the north wall, about two or three feet from the east end, lies the effigy of a priest

in his habit, carved in stone, having had four priests kneeling in their surplices by him, two on each side. This lying level with the floor had contracted moisture, and began to decay very much, and therefore in order to hinder its decaying further, Mr. Blomefield caused it to be taken out of its place, and the whitening, with which it had been washed over, to be scraped off cautiously, upon which were discovered the colours with which it was first adorned, and found that the large stone, on which he lies, was green, representing the earth; his head lies on a pillow, and that on a cushion, both which were red, the cushion being flowered with silver, and the pillow with gold; his feet lie on a buck couchant ermine, which is the crest of the Bois'; his gown was black, his cassock red, gilt all over, in imitation of embroidery, and powdered all over with ermine; round his waste is a girdle which was green, buckled with a black buckle; upon his breast, from the neck to the girdle, was the compleat arms of the Bois', which may still be seen in two of the chancel windows; the circumscription was in French, the letters being only painted on the stone which he lies on, and is all lost but these words; ----: KI:-----: AVERA: ----. However, we are not at a loss to know who he was, for from the arms and crest it is plain he was a Bois, from the habit that he was a priest, and from the arch that he lies in, (which must have been made when the chancel was built, as any one upon sight of it must own) that he was builder of the chancel; so that it can be no other but William du Bois, priest, rector here, who when he built the chancel, reserved this place for his own interment. At the removal of the effigy it was found to be joined in the midst, and hollow, being full of burnt coals, which were put there to suck up the moisture, and keep the stone dry, that its colours might not be injured; Mr. Blomefield had it raised
above

above a foot high from the ground, and painted in its original colours, causing this inscription to be put on a plate, and fixed to the wall:—*William du Bois, priest, founder of this chancel, patron, and rector of this church, and of Garboldisham All Saints, vicar of Great Conerth, in Suffolk, third son of Sir Robert du Bois, knt. and brother to that Sir Robert who lies buried in the south aisle; he died about 1352.*

Upon the ground, close to the arch, lies a large raised coffin-stone, with a cross on three Grieces, the monument perhaps of his father.

There are two stones in the chancel disrobed of their inscriptions, but never had any arms, or effigies.

On the south side of St. Anne's chapel, in the south aisle, under the window, in an arch in the wall, lies the effigy of a knight, armed *cap-a-pee*, cut out of one piece of oak, which being in a dirty condition, Mr. Blomesfield, the worthy rector, in 1729 had it taken out and washed very clean, and upon removing it, he found it hollowed and filled as the former, with burnt coals; the plank on which it lies was painted green, with flowers, grass, and leaves; the effigy is exact six feet, and proportionable in all parts, a sword hangs on a belt by his side, under the head was a board, having on it when he first took it up the arms of Bois and Latimer very perfect, and in Latimer's coat was a label of three arg. which plainly proves who he was that was buried here. The colours of the arms scaled off in two or three days after they were exposed to the air, for which reason he had them painted on the pillow under his head, his helmet and gantlets were powdered with ermine, and every other folding of his military cassoc, which hangs

hangs down lower than his armor, was the same, it being the field of his own coat; the other foldings were gull the field of his wife's; his feet rest on a buck couchant, arg. spotted with ermine, being his crest. His armor was mail, gilt all over with gold, and on his breast-plate was his perfect coat, erm. a cross sab. his head lies on a pillow painted with red, and flowered with silver, and that lies on a cushion painted as of green velvet, flowered with gold, with which his spurs are covered; several embellishments were gilded on a cement, and let into the wood in several places, on his belt, sword, and spurs, and on the edge of the plank that he lies on, and then covered with glass, but most were defaced; those that remained were, a man's head coop'd at the neck, with leaves in his mouth, a spread eagle, a dog meeting a hare, a dog fighting a lion, a bull tossing a dog, and a lion couchant, with an eagle standing on him, picking out his eyes, all which seem to intimate, that the deceased delighted chiefly in war, and rural exercises; but on a very large one that came off the edge at his feet was a representation of a building with arches, under which were two hands joined, holding up a book, to signify his founding this aisle; the inscription was on the edge. After removing the seats that stood before it, Mr. Blomesfield caused it to be painted in the same colours, as near as could be, and added this inscription;—*Sir Robert du Bois, knt. son of Sir Robert, and grandson of Sir Robert du Bois, knts. founder of this aisle, lord of this manor, and patron of this church, died in 1311, aged 43 years. He married Christian, daughter of Sir William Latimer, and widow of Sir John Carbonel, of Walding-field, in Suffolk, by whom he had Sir Robertt his only son, who died unmarried in 1333, and Alice, an only daughter, who married Sir John, son of Sir John Howard, knt. and carried the whole estate of the Bois to that noble family.*

The

The windows of the aile, and in particular the east window of the chapel, were formerly beautifully adorned with paintings on glass, of the twelve Apostles, the Blessed Virgin, and St. Anne, her mother, to whom the chapel was dedicated. She had a famous image standing in it, and a large guild kept to her honor, to which most that died in this, and the adjacent towns, generally gave something, and often left money to find wax candle, and lights, continually burning before it; from this place processions were usually made to a well, or spring, about sixty yards from the north gate of the church-yard, at the foot of the hill, which is still called Tann's well, being a corruption of St. Anne's well. There was a separate chaplain that served here from its foundation to 1411, and then it was united to the parish church, the rector being obliged to find a chaplain, who from this time was removeable at his pleasure.

The windows were glazed by sir John Howard, knt. whose effigy remained in the east window when Mr. Weaver published his book.

We find that every window is still filled with the following letters: the first is a J. and an H. joined with Howard's arms in it, for John Howard. The second an M. with six escallops in it, to signify Margaret Scales, his mother.

In the windows are the following arms, all which now remain, except the two last, which are gone, as also the arms of Ufford and Beck quartered, Howard impaling Spencer, Howard impaling Plais, Clifton impaling Howard, Morley, Courtney with a label az. impaling Scales, Shardelowe, ermine a cross gul. impaling Scales, and there still remain these impaled coats; Ufford and Scales, Howard and Scales, and Bois and Latimer, though they are somewhat broken.

In

In the nave, at the entrance of the chancel, lies a black marble, inscribed to—*Mr. William Flowerdew, of Fersfield, who died February 12, 1731, aged 43; and to two of his children, who died in their infancy.*

On another stone, in shape of a coffin,—*John, father of Jeffry Ellingham, died anno 1478.*—He willed to be buried here, and gave six marks to repair the church.

Before the pulpit lies a large stone, having had a brass plate on it formerly, which being lost, the townsmen had an inscription cut upon the stone;—*Jeffry Ellingham, of Fersfield, died anno 1493, &c.*

Another black marble, inscribed to—*John Blomefield, gent. some time of Corpus Christi Coll: in Cambr: afterwards an inhabitant of this place, where he lived, and died December 22, 1700, aged 53 years; and also Elizabeth, his wife, with two of their children.*

Between the north and south door in the nave, and in the south aisle, are stones with inscriptions to several others of the Blomefields; and to—*Mrs. Elizabeth Batch, widow, who died December 2, 1729, aged 81 years.*

Against the south wall is a mural monument of white marble, having the crest, arms, and quarterings, of Blomefield, impaling Jolly, Musket, Peak, and Batch, with a genealogical inscription and eulogium to the memory of Henry Blomefield, gent. of Fersfield, *obijt* June 1, 1732, *æt.* 52; and to Alice, his wife, who died March 27, 1729, aged 52. This elegant monument was put up, as the inscription shews, by the late Rev. Mr. Blomefield, to the memory of his parents.

In the west end of the aisle is a small, but exceeding strong vestry, it having been the repository for the relics, plate, evidences, and ornaments of the church, at which no one could heretofore come without passing eleven locks; a plain demonstration that there hath been plate of good value, though now there is only one cup left.

An altar-monument by the south chancel wall, in the church-yard, to—*John Barker, rector, who died March 13, 1729, aged 72; and to Mrs. Elizabeth Barker, widow, who died October 2, 1731, who by will settled a tenement and lands, lying in Briffingham, upon the rector and churchwardens, and their successors; the clear profits of which are to be applied in teaching as many poor children of that parish above eight, and under ten years old, to read, write, spin, and learn the church catechism, as the profits will pay for: She also tied her house and land, called Ten Acres, to keep up this tomb, on failure of which, the churchwardens of Fersfield are impowered to seize on the same, and repay themselves what monies they shall be out of in repairing and beautifying it, together with their charges.*

There are several head-stones for the Howchins, who had a good estate in the parish; the family extinguished in Mr. Robert Howchin, who died April 10, 1717.

In the time of the rebellion this church was purged of superstition (as they called it) by the rebels, who defaced the carvings on the heads of the seats with their swords, and hacked the effigies of the Bois'; what few brasses there were, were all reaved, several arms broken out of the windows, and the altar-rails pulled down. The evidences, king's arms, &c. were taken

taken away before by Mr. Piddock, the churchwarden, who justly returned them at the restoration.

In 1658 Henry Clark, of Difs, George Francis, and Robert Skurle, of Fersfield, informed against Arthur Womack, rector of Fersfield, Mr. John Piddock, and Mr. Robert Howchin, of the same, charging them with *endeavouring* to prepare at their cost a horse and man for the king of Scots (as king Charles was then commonly called) and with harbouring malignants in all their houses, and the said Arthur was particularly charged with speaking these words :

*Here is a health unto his majesty,
Pray God confound his foes,
And the Devil take all round heads,
For we are none of those.*

And also that he abused the government thus :

*Hey-ho ! for a two-penny halter,
When you are hang'd you shall have good quarter ;
Oh ! 'twould be a brave fight to see
All the round heads hang on a tree.
Oh ! ye rogues, ye must all come to it.*

And further, that he offered to raise 500l. for the king of Scots, and often drank [the king's health, and prosperity to the royal family.

Upon these informations they were carried before Thomas Sheriffe, esq. of Difs, then justice of the peace, who committed them to Ipswich gaol, where they continued some time ; but by the assistance of the said Mr. Sheriffe, who by private letters informed them of all that was intended against them, they were all discharged, after they had got certificates, according

according to his advice, of their good behaviour, from the towns of Difs, and Fersfield; upon which he had orders to examine the witnesses apart, and then they confessed, that they had maliciously informed against them, and forsworn themselves, in hopes of getting advantage by so doing; all which confessions they signed before witnesses, and thus, after much trouble and expence, they were at last freed.

This town contains about forty families, and 200 inhabitants; it paid 11. 14s. when the taxes were raised by tenths, and was valued at 750l. to the association rates, and now to the king's tax at 557l.

In the time of Edward III. the great plague reached even this obscure village; for in the court-rolls a year or two after, the deaths of many of the tenants were presented, and it is said that they died in the great pestilence; at this time the parish was almost all wood, there being no less than four large woods, besides several groves, among which Home-wood, or Great wood, is first named, and said to contain above 400 acres, Winley-wood, Wilcox, and Riche's woods, being of no small extent, all which are now cleared.

FRENZE, FRENSE, or FRENGE, or, as it is wrote in Doomſday-book, Frifa, was always one manor, which in the Conqueror's time was held by Hubert of Robert Malet, lord of Eye; it was then worth 15s. per annum, being five furlongs long, and four broad, and paid 3d. Dane gelt. It was always held of Eye honor at one quarter of a knight's fee, and paid 10s. relief; we do not meet with any lords names before 1280, when John de Ludham was lord and patron, whose family took their surname from a village so called in Suffolk, in Wilford hundred, which they held many ages.

In 1336 sir John Ludham, knt. purchased several large parcels of land of Ralph de Shimpling, being the first of this family that had Boyland's manor, together with this advowson, held of Edmund de Ufford, lord of Eye.

John Lowdham died April 28, 1428, and left only one daughter, married to Thomas Heveningham, esq. and after that to Ralph Bleverhasset, esq. both of whom she out-lived, not dying till June 20, 1501, being 97 years of age; she was seised of Boyland's, the other moiety of which was granted by John Lowdham to John Wodehouse.

John Bleverhasset was her son and heir, being 77 years old at his mother's death. This is a very ancient family, taking their name from Bleverseta, or Bleverhayset, in Cumberland, where the eldest branch continued a long time. In 1510 this John died, in the 87th year of his age, seised of Frenze, and a moiety of Boyland's; and sir Thomas, his son and heir, died seised of Frenze, and Boyland's, June 27, 1531, leaving George, his eldest son, who died in 1543, and Mary, his daughter and heiress, brought the estate to Thomas Culpepper, esq. her first husband; she settled Frenze on Francis Bacon, esq. her second husband, and Edmund, his son, for their lives, both which had it, Edmund Bacon, of Harleston, being seised of it in 1572, after whose death it reverted to John Bleverhasset, who had enjoyed Boyland's ever since the death of the said Mary. This John was brother to George, her father; he sold the moiety of Boyland's to sir Thomas Cornwallis, knt. and his heirs; but Frenze continued in this family; for in 1595 Samuel Bleverhasset held it: how or when it went from this family we do not find; but in 1666, November 24, Richard Nixon, esq. died seised, and
Diamond

Diamond Nixon, his grandson, sold it to sir Robert Kemp, bart. whose son, sir Robert, was lord and patron in 1735.

The church is a small building, of equal height, covered with tile, and not having a steeple the bell hangs on the outside of the roof, at the west end; there is no partition between the church and chancel, but there is a beam fixed across the east chancel window, on which the rood was conveniently placed; the church is about twenty-four yards long, and seven wide, the south porch is tiled, and it is dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle; the meanness of the fabric hath preserved the inscriptions from being reaved, for it looks like a barn at a distance.

In the chancel is buried Ralph Bleverhasset, esq. whose effigy, standing on a lion, still remains on his stone, and this inscription;—*Hic jacet venerabilis vir Radulphus Bleverhasset, armiger, qui obiit xiv die mensis Novembris, anno Dni. MCCCCLXXV, cujus anime propicietur Deus, Amen.*

There are shields still remaining; Bleverhasset quartering Orton, ditto impaling Lowdham, and Lowdham single.

The inscription for his wife is now lost, but was, as we learn from Mr. Anstis's manuscripts, (marked G.6. fol 39,) as follows;—*Here lieth Mrs. Joan Bleverhasset, the wife of Ralph Bleverhasset, esq. the daughter and heiress of John Lowdham, who died the 20th day of June, 1501.*

The same manuscripts hath the following inscription, now gone;—*Here lieth the venerable gentleman*

I

John

John Bleverhassett, esq. who died the 27th of March in the year of our Lord 1514.

A stone by the south door has the effigy of a woman bidding her beads, with three shields under the inscription;—*Jane Bleverhayset, wedour, late wyf unto John Bleverhayset, esquier, whiche Jane departed oute of this present lyf the vi day of October, the yere of our Lord God MVXXI.*

On a stone at the east end,—*Here lieth Sir Thomas Bleverhassett, knight, which deceasyd the xvii day of June, the yere of our Lorde MVXXXI. and xxxiii yere of the reigne of our soveraygne lord kyng Henry the VIIIth, whois soule God pardon.*—At each corner is a coat of Hasset quartering Orton, Lowdham, Keldon, Heigham, Beacham, &c. his effigy still remains in compleat armour, having a furcoat of his arms, with his quarterings; under his head lies his crest, viz. a fox passant.

A marble, three yards long, and a yard and half wide, with this on a brass plate;—*Here lyeth dame Margaret Bleverhayset, wedowe, late wyf to Syr Thomas Bleverhayset, of Frens, knyght, dowghter to John Braham, of Wetheryngset, esquier, who dyed the xxiii of Julye, in the yere of our Lorde 1561.*

Adjoining is another stone, having had two coats, which are reaved, as is the effigy of the man, that of the woman remains; her head lies on a pillow, and her beads hang before her; the two remaining shields have these arms; Duke quartering Banyard, Park and Ilkethall impaling Hasset, quartering Lowdham, &c.—*Heare under lieth George Duke, esquyre, who married Anne, the dowghter of Syr Thomas Bleverhayset, knyght, the whiche George dyed the xxvi day of July, in the*

the yere of our Lorde God a. MCCCCLI. whos soule God pardon, Amen.

Here are also stones, with arms and inscriptions at length,—*To John Bleverhasset, esq. November 8, 1510, —To Maria, wife of Sir George Bleverhasset, bart. September 7, 1587. æt. 70.—To Thomasin, wife of William Platers, esq. of Sotterley, December 23, 1560.—To Johanna, wife of John Braham, November 18, 1519.*

On a brass plated stone, near the north door, a man in his winding-sheet, and this;

*Pray for the soule of your charite,
Of Thomas Hobson to the Trynyte.*

Three flat marbles are for—*Richard, son of Richard Nixon, esq. who died August 28, 1678, aged 22.—Reliquiæ Richardi Nixon, armig. qui obiit 24 Novemb: anno Dni. 1666, ætatis suæ 77.—William Cooper, gent. died March 30, 1693, aged 54 years.*

In the windows are arms and funeral escutcheons of the Hassets, &c. most of which still remain.

At Mrs. Hill's, at Castor, near Yarmouth, Mr. Blomefield saw an ancient canvass surrounding two rooms, painted with the matches of the Bleverhassets: John Bleverhasset, who married a sister of the said Mrs. Hill, and died in 1704, was the last now living of this branch of that family; their names are under each coat, but with hanging against moist walls several are worn out; those that are perfect we have added here, though they are so displaced that the time of the matches cannot be determined by their succession.—Bleverhasset impaled with all the following coats: Frogmorton, Braham, Tindall. Eyre,

Pickerell, Clopton, Lowthe, Cressi, Culpepper, Covert, Baynaugh, Brampton, Meawes, Lowdham, Kelvedon, (or Keldon) Orton, Skelton, Cornwallis, Hare, Heydon, Wyngfield, Reade, Kempe, Gosnold, Spilman, Colby, Alcock, Rowse, Drury, Hubbard, Heigham, Warner quartering Whetnall, Calthorpe, Lovell, and Ruthyn,

This rectory of Frenze being sworn of the value of 30*l.* per ann. only, is discharged of first-fruits and tenths, and is capable of augmentation; here is a rectory-house, and about three or four acres of glebe; it is a small village, having only six houses, and about sixty inhabitants. In Norwich Doomday-book it is said that the rector then had a house, and twenty acres of land, not taxed. The old tenth was 11*l.* 5*s.* the association valuation 204*l.* per ann. and the present valuation is 149*l.* It is valued in the king's books at 21*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

The custom of the manor is to the eldest son, and the fine is at the lord's will; the leet belongs to the hundred, the leet-fee being 5*d.* per ann.

In 1767 Dame Elizabeth Kemp, and Eleazar Davy, esq. presented the Rev. Charles Browne; and in 1774 the Rev. Simon Adams had this rectory of Eleazar Davy, esq.

GISSING, or GWISESSING. The church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, and in 1209 was a rectory, a moiety of its patronage being then settled on Butley priory, by John, son of Geffry; about 1217 Thomas de Hastings granted to the monastery of St. Mary at Butley, in Suffolk, the perpetual advowson of the other part, and the bishop not only confirmed it, but agreed to appropriate the whole to that house;
and

and in 1271, the 56th of Henry III. endowed the vicarage with all the offerings, the tythes of the mills, a vicarage-house and meadow, and an acre of land adjoining, with twenty acres more of the church's free-land, and all other small tithes, except hay, which with all the corn tythes, and the rest of the glebe, together with the rectory manor, and all its appurtenances, were to belong to the prior, who was always to present to the vicarage.

In 1569, August 7, Richard Denney, of Bawley, presented as patron of this vicarage, for this turn only, by grant from Thomas, late prior of the dissolved house of Butley, the grant being made before its dissolution. After this it was in the crown.

In 1668, Dec. 24, John Gibbs, A. M. was presented by Charles II. he continued rector till 1690, being then ejected as a *nonjuror*; he was an odd, but harmless man, both in life and conversation; after his ejection he dwelt in the north porch chamber, and laid on the stairs that led up to the rood loft, between the church and chancel, having a window at his head, so that he could lie in his narrow couch and see the altar; he lived to be very old, and at his death was buried at Frenze.

In 1730 the Rev. Thomas Kemp, A. M. was presented to this church by his father, sir Robert Kemp, bart. who died in December, 1734, leaving this patronage and manors to sir Robert Kemp, bart. his eldest son, then lord and patron.

In 1761 the Rev. Edward Howman was presented by sir John Kemp, bart. *p. j.*

The impropriation, according to Butley register, was confirmed by several archbishops of Canterbury, and was taxed at 16l. 13s. 4d. and paid 33s. 4d. tenths. It appears also by the said register, that sir John Aumbler, as rector of Giffing, acknowledged a pension of 26s. 8d. to be yearly due to the prior of Butley out of the rectory, which was now in effect disappropriated, and united to the vicarage, all but the manor, the impropriate glebe, and its tithes, which remained in the prior, and fell to the crown at the dissolution, in which they continued till queen Elizabeth, by letters patent, dated the 16th day of April, 1563, granted to Edward Dyer, and Henry Cressinor, in fee-farm, the rents, lands, tenements, woods, and portion of tithes, in Giffing, lately belonging to Butley priory, at the yearly fee-farm rent of 4l. 1d. ob. to be held in soccage; and this Edward on the 17th of February, 1574, sold them to Robert Kemp, esq. and that year the queen by other letters patent, dated December 22, granted to Anthony Kinwellmarsh, and his heirs, the rectory, or advowson of the rectory, &c. who on the 9th of February, in the same year, sold it to Robert Kemp, esq. but notwithstanding this the queen recovered her presentation to the church, because though the rectory was united, yet it had been all along presented to by the name of a vicarage, and so could not be included in the grant of the rectory; and from this time it remained in the crown till Charles II. gave it to the Kemps, who united the tythes of the impropriate glebe, and so made it a compleat rectory, and as such it hath been presented to ever since.

Few instances (if any) of such generosity occur in the present age, (1781) notwithstanding the very great impropriations obtained at the time of the *dissolution*, when so many abbeys and religious houses were plundered,

plundered, and so many families enriched, *sacrilegiously* enriched, by the lands belonging to the church, and by the ruin of priories, and convents, dedicated to the service of God, in the possession of which these unhallowed spoilers still triumph to this day, and all the noble endowments of our ancestors for pious uses, and public acts of charity, are wasted away in the loose revels of extravagant riot, and the perpetual dissipations of private luxury.

“ The infant yet unborn
 “ Will curse the time the *abbeyes* were pull'd down :
 “ I pray you where is hospitality ?
 “ Where now may poor distressed people go,
 “ For to relieve their need, or rest their bones,
 “ When weary travel doth oppress their limbs ?
 “ And where religious men should take them in,
 “ Shall now be kept back by a mastiff dog.” —

In 1569 the Priory-clofe, in Giffing and Burston, containing thirty acres, and other lands of the value of 20l. per ann. were granted to Nicholas Yetesworth, and Bartholomew Brokesby.

In 1364 John de Calthorpe held a messuage and lands in this town by petit-serjeanty, viz. by the payment of a well-feathered arrow, of 1d. value, every year, to the king, by the hands of the sheriff.

It is called in the king's books Gwifing, *alias* Giffing, and is valued at 14l. 16s. 5d. ob.

Here was a chantry in honor of All Saints, in a chapel of that dedication in the church-yard, founded by sir Nicholas Hafting, knt. about 1280 ; for in that year the said sir Nicholas, and sir Adam de Giffing, knt. endowed it with a messuage and divers lands,

which were copyhold of sir Nicholas' manor, all which were manumised by the said Nicholas; it was for one priest only, who was bound daily to sing for their souls, and those of their ancestors; it is now quite gone, and we know not in which part of the church-yard it stood.

In 1544 it appears that the township held of Giffing, *cum* Dagworth manor, a tenement, called Buckenham's, which abuts on the way leading from the church to Tibbenham Long-row, east; and of Giffing-Kemp's, *cum* Dalling's manor, another tenement, called Owles', and one acre of land, lying between the Lord's Meadow, north, and the common way, west; and also one piece, called the Meadow-pightle, which abuts on the Drag-way, north: this tenement and acre pay a rent of 6d. and the pightle a rent of 7d. a year. They had also a freehold cottage and garden at Well-green, and the leet-fee was then 2s. 4d.

In 1548 sir Anthony Heveningham, knt. lord of Giffing, *cum* Dagworth, settled three acres of land upon the churchwardens towards the maintainance of the poor, and ordered that his heirs should pay 3s. a year to the same use out of his estate. In the year 1537 John Tiler gave 20s. to the church. In 1550 John Taylor gave 26s. 8d. to repair the cawsway. In 1598 Joan Freeman gave 13s. 4d. to the church. In 1621 Thomas Prockter, clerk, late of Giffing, deceased, gave 40s. for town-flock, to be put out by the churchwardens to two poor men resident in the said town; they to have the benefit for one year, laying in good security, and then the next year to two others, &c.

Here

Here is a very good parsonage-house, with a barn and stable, built all of brick by Mr. John Calver, rector, (in whose time the old parsonage was burned) with a garden, orchard, and other conveniences, and 49 acres of glebe.

The church hath a low small round steeple joined to its west end, but yet it contains five bells; on the first and second is this;—*God bless the church and confound her foes.*

The nave is leaded, the chancel tiled, and hath a chapel joined to each side of it, both which are leaded; that on the south side hath no memorials in it, the vault for the family of the Kemps being under it. That on the north was the ancient burial place of the lords of the manor, and is full of monuments and grave-stones. There is only a cup belonging to the altar, on the cover of which our Saviour's head is poorly engraved, and this; *Gyffeing, anno 1567.*

There is nothing in the nave, but an inscription on a free-stone, to—*Richard Girling, late of St. Andrew's, in the seven parishes, in Suffolk; he died in April, 1667, in the service of Mrs. Mary Sone, widow, mother-in-law to Sir Robert Kemp, bart.*

In the chancel there are no memorials of any kind.

In the north chapel, which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, there are several grave-stones which have lost their brasses, but the arms, as in Mr. Anstis' manuscripts, are, Kemp impaling Curson, Duke, Aleyn, Cockerham, and Smythwine;—*Robert Kemp, esq. who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Smythwine, esq. he died April 27, 1596, ætatis suæ 80.—Kemp, and*

and le Grey, his second wife, in colours, on a stone in the wall, with this;—*Spero Lucem*.—On another stone in the wall, Kemp quarters Buttevelyn.

On a mural monument of white marble against the north wall, having Kemp's arms and crest,—*For Sir Robert Kemp, bart. of Gissing, who died September 26, 1710, aged 83; his first lady was Mary, daughter of Thomas Kerridge, of London, who died in June, 1655. The second lady was Mary, daughter of John Sone, of Ubbestone, in the county of Suffolk, gent. who died July 29, 1705, at Ubbestone.*

Another mural monument on the same side, for—*Robert Kemp, of Gissing, esq. who died October 23, 1612, aged 67; he married Dorothy Herris, sole daughter of Arthur Herris, of Crixeth, in the county of Essex, esq. by whom he had eight sons and three daughters.*

There are five coffins in the vault, one is for Robert Kemp's, who died Dec. 1734, and his three wives, and a child by the first wife. Hatchments for them.

Here were several manors, free-tenements, and other small lordships.

The capital manor, afterwards called Hastings manor, at the survey was included and valued as a berewic to Tivetshall, with which it was given to the abbot of Bury, who was lord at the conquest, by Erneburg, daughter of Hugh Flamavile, married to Hugh de Hastings, son of William de Hastings, steward to Henry I. This manor, and the stewardship of Bury, with Aston Flamavile manor, in Leicestershire, and all Flamavile's estate, came to this family, which was surnamed from the port of Hastings, the lastage of

of which, with that of Rhye, they for a long time farmed of the crown. William de Hastings, his son, married Margery, daughter of Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk. Tho. de Hastings, his grandson, had affize of bread and ale, free-warren, liberty of enclosing, and liberty of faldage throughout the town, as well in other folks lands as his own, which, upon a *quo warranto* in 1227, were allowed him. Sir Nich. de Hastings, knt. in 1249, granted to the prior of Pentney a messuage, and two carves of land in Gayton-thorpe, and East-winch, to be for ever held of his manor of Gifling by one knight's fee, and a pair of gilt spurs, or 7d. a year at Easter.

Nicholas de Hastings in 1276, being then a knt. was retained by Ralph lord Greystock, (according to the custom of those times) by covenants, to serve him both in peace and war for the term of their lives, viz. in time of war, with two yeomen well mounted and arrayed ; and in time of peace, with two yeomen and four grooms ; in consideration of which he was to be furnished with all accoutrements for his own body, as also with one saddle, according to the dignity of a knight ; and in case he should lose any great horse in the war, he was to have recompence according to the estimation of two men. Furthermore, wherever lord Greystock resided, so that it was in Yorkshire, he should repair to him upon notice, having allowance for his reasonable service in war and peace. On account of this retainer, sir Nicholas had the manor of Thorpe-basset, in Yorkshire, from this lord, paying a fee-farm rent of 8l. a year. We could not omit taking notice of this, to shew the custom of that age, abundance of the knights then being retained in the same manner. This sir Nicholas left two sons, Ralph and William, between whom this manor was divided.

vided, one part being henceforward called Giffing only, and the other Hastings in Giffing.

William, the youngest, had Giffing assigned to him, which he left to his son, Phillip de Hastings, whose daughter, Isabel, in 1324, married Alan Kemp, of Weston, in Suffolk, esq. to whose son, John, the said Phillip granted the manor called Giffing, and to his heirs for ever, from which time it hath continued in that family.

Sir Ralph, the eldest, had Hastings manor in Giffing, and in 1328 he renewed his charter of free-warren for it, after the division. He married Margaret, only daughter of sir William de Harley, of Kirby, in Leicestershire, who afterwards became sole heiress to sir Robert, her brother, in 1336. He was governor of York castle, and sheriff of that county, and lived in great honor till 1346, in which year, being in the second battalion of that northern army raised by the invasion of David de Bruce, king of Scotland, October 17, he was mortally wounded, of which he died in a few days, and was buried, according to his will, in the abbey of Sulby, of which he was patron. This engagement was called the battle of Nevile-cross, near Durham, in which the king of Scots, and most of the nobility of that kingdom, were taken prisoners, and their army routed.

Ralph, his son and heir, was a knight in 1349, and was retained by Henry duke of Lancaster to serve him, both in war and peace, for 40 marks per annum, out of his manor of Pickering, in Yorkshire, and upon the death of that duke, he had a confirmation thereof from John of Gaunt, son of Edward III. duke of Lancaster, earl of Richmond, and high-steward
ard

and of England, who had married one of the daughters and heiresses of that duke.

In the year 1353 sir Ralph sold the manor of Hastings, in Giffing, to Thomas Gardiner, of Chedeston. Thomas Gardiner, of Giffing, his son and heir, had a daughter named Joan, who inherited Dalling's manor; and dying without issue in 1400, she left it to sir Robert Buttevelyn, of Flordon, knt. who was then lord of Hastings manor, by his marrying Catherine, a daughter of the said Thomas Gardiner by his second wife, and half sister to this Joan, so that now both these manors were vested in the said sir Robert Buttevelyn, who was descended from an ancient family of that name in Northamptonshire. In 1403 he settled his manors, called Hastings and Dalling's, upon the trustees for the wife of sir Robert Buttevelyn, jun. for her life, and the heirs of their bodies. Upon this sir Robert's death, the abbot of Bury seized his ward, by reason of the chief part of the manor, which was held of him by knight's service; but this settlement being produced, he was forced to release his seizure, and at her death William Buttevelyn inherited the manors, and died without issue about 1465, leaving these, and Cotesbrook manor, in Northamptonshire, and Fenwick, and Thornditch, in Bedfordshire, to his sisters, Elizabeth, and Julian; Elizabeth married Edmund Chaterton, and left one daughter only, named Elizabeth, who married Thomas Herteshorne, *alias* Hartstrong, of Giffing, esq. Julian married Robert Duke, of Brampton, in Suffolk, esq. and left only one daughter, named Alice, who married John Kemp, of Weston, esq. between which John, and Thomas Herteshorne afore said, the estate came divisible, and by agreement they divided it; Thomas had Cotesbrook, Fenwick, and Thornditch; and John had Flordon manor and advowson, with Hastings and Dalling's

Dalling's manors, in Giffing, so that now he was lord of three of the manors in this town.

The customs of this manor. extracted from the extent-roll in 1327, (anno 2 E. III.) which was a renewal of the old roll made in the 5th of Edward II. in Sir Thomas Huslings' time, (1311) were as follow:

" A villain cannot divide his tenements, but all shall remain to the eldest issue, and if such issue withdraws out of the homage, he *forfeits* his tenements.

" A prepositor and messor to be yearly chosen out of the tenants; the messor to have the custody of the fields, meadows, and woods; he shall sow all the lord's seed, and give an account of all trespasses to the lord, and shall keep a man all seed time to fright the vermin; the messor shall come to the lord's diet (or maintenance) the first day of harvest, and shall be maintained all harvest time; he is to collect the lord's rents and profits of court, and to warn the laborers and all others to their duty, and is to be paid his wages by the tenements that are eligible into that office.

" The bond-men to fine for their marriage *at the lord's will*.

" The tenement of every copyholder at each death is *heriotable*, by the best beast, and if they have no beast, they shall give 5s.

" The heir of the tenant shall take his inheritance by fine at the will of the lord, and shall give for *ley-erwite** 2s. 8d.

" All

* It signifies a fine paid by the tenant to his lord for defiling a bond woman.

" All bond tenants also shall make redemption of their blood, and shall not put themselves under the protection of any other lord.

" Every heir (according to custom) is of full age at 14 years."

The whole manor was then held of the heirs of the de Hastings, as of the fee of the abbot of St. Edmund's, by the service of one knight's fee, and no more.

The lord had belonging to this manor liberty of faldage and closure through the whole town of Giffing, as well in other men's lands as in his own, also free-warren in his own lands, and the correction of the affize of bread and ale of all his tenants.

In the 39th of Edward III. William Goodwin, a villain by blood, (of the lord) was a rebel, and ungrateful towards his lord, for which his tenement, and all his goods in the lordship, were seized; his offence was, that he falsely and maliciously said, " that the lord received and maintained a thief, and knowingly kept four stolen sheep in his fold," by which the lord was damaged 30l.

In the 22d and 23d of Edward III. Alice le Ward paid the lord 1s. for *licence* to marry.—Another paid 20s. that she might live out of the lordship, and marry *whoever she would*.

In the 42d of Edward III. a tenant forfeited all his copyhold only because he *claimed* to hold it freely.—The widow of a copyholder during the monage of the heir is his guardian by custom.

In the 16th of Edward IV. the manner of the lord's taking stray is thus set forth; "a horse came within the jurisdiction of the manor, and was seized as a stray, and proclaimed according to custom; no other challenging him in a year and a day, he was appraised in open court, and sold."

We could not forbear observing these customs, because they shew us the former *slavish* condition of the villains and copyholders.

GISSING-HALL MANOR, in Gissing, was held of Robert Malet, lord of Eye, by William de Gissing, in the time of the Conqueror, as of the honor of Eye, and soon after the conquest the manor of Gissing-hall, in Roydon, was joined, and constantly attended this manor till 1579.

The other parcels also were afterwards added to this manor, and that is the reason that it was partly held of Eye honor, and partly of the abbot of Bury; for in the time of Henry III. it was thus distinguished:—*Gissing. Pro parte honoris Eye. Pro parte Abbatis Sci. Edmundi.*

In the pipe rolls of the 34th of Henry II. and in the 1st of Richard I. it is found, that Walter de Gissinges paid Henry II. one mark, that it might be recorded in the great roll, that Bartholomew, his elder brother, and heir to his father, released his inheritance to him in the king's court. This shews the regard which those times had for the rolls of the pipe, there being many instances in those rolls of such entries, a collection of which hath been made and several of them printed by Mr. Maddox, in his *History of the Exchequer*.

In 1322 sir Thomas de Giffing owned this manor in Giffing and Roydon. In 1355 he had great possessions in Cambridgeshire, being patron of Kingston, &c. He was in the army with Edward the Black Prince in Aquitain, during which time Thomas Mintmore, of Foxton, in Cambridgeshire, carried away his wife; for which, at his return, he recovered 500*l.* damages. He attended the king into Gascoigne, and died in 1382, leaving only one daughter and heiress, Joan, who kept her first court in 1382, on her father's death. This Joan married sir John Heveningham, senior, *knt.* Sir John Heveningham, *knt.* his grandson, had Giffing-hall, in Giffing, together with another manor here, called Dagworth's, which he purchased, it being held at half a fee of the lord Grey, of Ruthyn, as of Winfarthing hall manor, which half fee sir John Dagworth formerly held.

By failure of issue male the manor of Giffing, *cum* Dagworth, and the manor of Giffing-hall, in Roydon, which was held of the queen as of Eye honor, at a quarter of a fee, descended divisible between three sisters; first, Mary, then married to John Smith; second, Ann, to Edward Everard; and third, Jane, unmarried, who seems to have afterwards married Edward Sulyard, who bought in all the parts, and then sold them to sir Arthur Heveningham, of Heveningham, *knt.* who was the male heir of that family. He kept his first court in 1579, and soon after manumised the manor in Giffing by selling every tenant their own part, so that the united manors of Giffing-hall, and Dagworth's, were lost, all but the royalties and fair, which the said Arthur sold to Richard Kemp, of Westbrook, in Suffolk; but the manor of Giffing-hall, in Roydon, still continued in him, though he manumised a great part of that also.

DAGWORTH MANOR was in the Confessor's time part of earl Algar's manor of Winfarthing, under whose sole protection the free-men then were; but upon the earl's forfeiture it fell to the Conqueror, with Winfarthing, with which it was committed to Godric's custody, and remained in the crown till Henry II. in 1189, gave it to sir William de Munchensi, knt. in which family it remained, with Winfarthing, and went as that did, till Hugh de Vere granted it to sir John de Dagworth, who was lord in 1315: Thomas, his son, succeeded him, and sir Nicholas, his son, followed; all these were great men and famous warriors in their days. Eleanor, widow of Nicholas, in the same year that he died, viz. 1401, conveyed it to sir John Heveningham, knt. who held it of Winfarthing-hall manor by the service of a quarter of a fee, from which time it always passed with the manor of Gissing-hall, in Gissing, till 1570, when Henry Heveningham died seised, and Ann, his wife, daughter of sir Edward Windham, enjoyed it for life, as part of her settlement; at her death it reverted again to the Heveninghams, of whom sir Edward Sulyard purchased it, with Gissing-hall, in Gissing, and Gissing-hall, in Roydon; he sold it to sir Arthur Heveningham, knt. who after he had manumised great part of it, sold it with the manor of Gissing-hall, in Gissing, to Richard Kemp, of Westbrook, in Suffolk, and so in 1595 it was united to his other manors in this town.

DALLING'S, *alias* DAWLING'S MANOR. Stephen Fitz-Walter, one of the lords of Difs hundred, infeoffed Walter le Breton. This Walter married Alberia, daughter of sir Thomas Hastings; in this family it continued till Henry le Breton, of Stanton-Wyvil, in Leicestershire, sold to Richard de Boyland, clerk, the inheritance in this manor. John, son of sir

fir Richard de Boyland, fold it to Simon de Dalling. This Simon purchafed of Robert le Breton, of Stanton-Wyvil, an annuity of 10l. rent, which he was to receive out of this manor, and foon after he purchafed all his right in the manor, and to augment it, bought all the lands that John, fon of fir Richard de Boyland, had here, and to compleat the title, had a releafe from all parties. From the Dallings it came by marriage to the Shimplings, &c. Roger of Shimpling died feifed, leaving three daughters, of whom Katherine, married to William Ellingham, had this manor; they left Roger their fon and heir, from whose descendents (if not from him) it came to Thomas Gardiner, who joined it to his manor of Haftings, with which it went joined to the Kemps; and thus having joined all thefe manors in that family, we fhall now fpeak of their rife and defcent, obferving that this manor always continued in the eldeft branch, except when it was held in jointure.

The name of Kemp is derived from the Saxon word to kemp, or combat, which in Norfolk is retained to this day, a foot-ball match being called camping, or kemping, and thus, in Saxon, a *kempen*, signifies a combatant, a champion, or man of arms*. This family hath been of long continuance in this county; Galfrid Kemp lived at Norwich in 1272, (1st of Edward I.) from whom descended Alan Kemp, of Weston, in Suffolk, esq. who married Isabel, daughter of sir Philip Hastings, and had issue John, to whom sir Philip Hastings, his grandfather, in 1324, gave the manor of Gilling; this John married Alice, daughter to Robert Duke, of Brampton, in Suffolk,

K 2 coheirefs

* If we mistake not, *kemp*, or *kemping*, is also a term in Norfolk for gleanings or gathering the remains of corn on stubble fields in harvest.

coheirefs to Julian Buttevelyn, and had for his fhare of her inheritance the manors of Haftings and Dalling, in Giffing, and left iffue; he is fometimes called in evidences John de Flordon, efq.

Robert Kemp, of Giffing, efq. had four daughters, one of whom, Elizabeth, was lady of the bed-chamber to queen Catherine, in 1523, and one fon.

Richard Kemp, efq. fucceeded to the manors of Flordon, Giffing, Dalling, Buttevelyn, and Dagworth, together with Giffing fair, in 1594; he was a barrifter at law; and Robert Kemp, gent. his fon and heir, held Haftings, *alias* Buttevelyn's, *alias* Kemp's manor, of the king, as of his manor of St. Edmund's Bury, by half a fee; Dagworth manor, of Edmund Buckenham, efq. as of his manor of Thelveton; Dalling, of John Shardelowe, gent. as of his manor of Shimpling-Ellingham, at the eighth part of a fee; Flordon manor and advowfon, of Henry earl of Northampton, as of Forncet manor, at one fee; and Burnett's, of fir William Grey, knt. as of Hadefton, or Bunwell manor. He left two daughters, Dorothy, and Elizabeth, and one fon, fir Robert Kemp, of Giffing, knt. and bart. created March 4, 1642; he married Jane, daughter of fir Matthew Browne, of Surrey, knt. and was fucceeded by fir Robert Kemp, bart. whose eldeft fon, fir Robert Kemp, of Ubbefton, in Suffolk, bart. had four wives; by his fecond wife he had fir Robert Kemp, bart. John, a merchant; Ifaac, a barrifter at law; Thomas, late rector of Giffing, and Flordon; and Benjamin, of Caius College, in Cambridge; Elizabeth, unmarried; and Jane, relict of William Blois, efq. fon of fir Charles Blois, bart. befides Edward, Letitia, and Ann, who died young. By his third wife he had
William,

William, some time of Pembroke-hall, in Cambridge, and Martha, a daughter, unmarried, besides a former daughter, named Martha, that died an infant. By his fourth wife he had no issue.

Sir Robert Kemp, bart. of Ubbeston, in Suffolk, was lord and patron of Giffing, Flordon, and Frenze, in the county of Norfolk, and Ubbeston, in the county of Suffolk. His brother, the late Rev. sir Thomas Kemp, bart. rector of Giffing and Flordon, succeeded him in the title, which is now extinct.

We meet with two great men of this name, John Kemp, born at Wye, in Kent. L. L. D. of Merton College, in Oxford, archdeacon of Durham, dean of the Arches, first bishop of Rochester, then of Chichester, then of London, archbishop of York, and afterwards of Canterbury, cardinal of St. Balbine, afterwards of St. Rufine, which was signified by this verse;—*Bis primas, ter præses, et bis cardine functus.*—He died a very old man, in 1453.

The other was Thomas Kemp, his nephew, who was consecrated bishop of London in 1449, by his uncle, the archbishop; but whether they were any way related to this family we cannot say.

The hall was an ancient building, being the seat of the Hastings, and afterwards of the Kemps, till sir Robert, upon his removal to Ubbeston, pulled it down. The windows were adorned with the following coats: Kemp quartered with Buttevelyn, or Buttevelyn impaled with Loveday; Kemp and Buttevelyn quartered, impaling Bleverhasset; the same, impaling Jarnegan; the same, impaling Throkmorton, quartering Bainard, of Speckshall.

In the parlor windows were, Kemp impaling Hastings, Buttevelyn, Duke, Gurlen, Appleyard, of Braconash, St. Leger, Calthorpe, Alleyn, Cockerham, Heris, De Grey, of Merton, quartered with Bainard, Smithin, or Smythwyne, Kemp and Buttevelyn quartered, impaling White, of Shottisham.

In a manuscript of Mr. Anslis's, these arms are said to be in Giffing-hall, at that time the seat of Richard Kemp, esq. when the chapel was new glazed: In the chamber, by the hall door, were the arms of Giffing, Felton, and Framlingham, and the pictures of two laborers threshing wheat-sheaves, or garbs, in allusion to Kemp's arms, and Kemp quartering Duke.

In 1603 here were 150 communicants, and in 1735 fifty-one houses, and about 300 inhabitants; it hath a fair yearly on St. James's-day, (July 25, 1781) which in 1378 was granted to sir Thomas de Giffing, knt. together with a weekly market at Giffing, but that is now disused; it paid to the old tenth 3l. 10s. but 1l. being deducted it was reduced to 2l. 8s. The parliament valuation was 1252l. and the present value is 761l. The leet belongs to the hundred, and the present leet-fee is 2s.

The village of Giffing is situated on the road from Norwich by Bracon-Ash, sixteen miles. to Difs four. The country hereabouts is a deep clay soil, and the roads very indifferent.

OSMUNDESTON, alias SCOLE. joins to the east part of Difs, and is bounded by the Waveney on the south: we cannot find who this Osmund was that gave name to this town, but imagine him to be a Saxon, and owner of it. Scole was a hamlet to Osmundeston in the time of Edward III. and gave
name

name to a numerous family, one of which was rector of Frenze in 1397. The antient institution books have no such name, though it now stands in the last value by the name of Ofmondston, alias Scole, which last name prevailed about the time of Henry VIII when this hamlet was increased so as to become the chief part of the town, and might first receive its name from the shoals, or shallows of the river on which it is situated.

Here is a very good inn for the entertainment of travellers, (the White Hart) much noted in these parts, being called, by way of distinction, Scole-inn. The house is a large brick building, adorned with imagery and carved work in several places, as big as the life. It was built in 1655, by John Peck, esq. a merchant in Norwich, whose arms, impaling his wife's, are over the porch door: the sign, which is now gone, was very large, beautified all over with a great number of images of large stature, carved in wood, was the work of one Fairchild, and cost 1057l. The arms about it are those of the chief towns and gentlemen in the county, viz. Norwich, Yarmouth, duke of Norfolk, earl of Yarmouth, Bacon of Garboldisham, Hobart, Cornwallis, impaling Bukton, Teye, Thurston, Castleton, and many others. Here was formerly a very large *round* bed, big enough to hold 15 or 20 couple, in imitation (we suppose) of the remarkable 'great bed at Ware.' The house was in all things accommodated at first for large business, but the road not supporting it it fell into decay, though there is a good bowling green, and a pretty large garden, with land sufficient for passengers horses. "The business, says Mr. Blomefield. of the two inns here are much supported by the annual cock-matches that are fought."

Still further to elucidate this prodigy of human folly, "the wonderful sign at Scolé-inn," we have procured the annexed engraving of its north-east view, to which we add an explanation of the figures.

1. Jonah coming out of the fish's mouth. 2. A lion supporting the arms of Great Yarmouth. 3. A Bacchus. 4. The arms of Lindley. 5. The arms of Hobart, now lord Hobart. 6. A shepherd playing on his pipe. 7. An angel supporting the arms of Mr. Peck's lady. 8. An angel supporting the arms of Mr. Peck. 9. A white hart, with this motto, *Implentur veteris bacchi pingvisquæ ferinæ, an. Dom. 1655*. 10. The arms of the late earl of Yarmouth. 11. The arms of the duke of Norfolk. 12. Neptune on a Dolphin. 13. A lion supporting the arms of Norwich. 14. Charon carrying a reputed witch to hell. 15. Cerberus. 16. An huntsman. 17. Adleon. 18. A white hart couchant. 19. Prudence. 20. Fortitude. 21. Temperance. 22. Justice. 23. Diana. 24. Time devouring an infant. 25. An astronomer who is seated on a circumferenter, and by some chymical preparation is so affected, that in fine weather he faces the north, and against bad weather he faces that quarter from whence it is about to come.

What could induce a merchant, above a century ago, to erect so costly a piece of workmanship, we are at a loss to conjecture, unless to indulge his consummate vanity, or singularity of temper; for we confess, that we do not discover the smallest trait of judgement or taste in the whole composition: had he consulted every artist in the kingdom to leave a monument of his stupidity, they could not have produced a better effect. Had he expended so considerable a sum *at that time*, as 1057*l.* on a subject which would have perpetuated *his* memory, without an impeachment

impeachment of his understanding, posterity might have looked on it *with indifference*; but they saw it with contempt, and let this "Sign of Infanity" moulder with its first projector.

"Schoale Inn, so called from its being twenty miles distant from the city of Norwich, Ipswich, Bury St. Edmund's, and Thetford, the roads to which places divide themselves at the door."

This account of distances is taken from a print published by Harwin Martin, May 1, 1740. The real measured distances are now—from Schole Inn to Norwich 20 miles, Ipswich 23, Bury St. Edmund's 22, and Thetford 20;—Diss 2, Harling 12, Harleston 8, Bungay 15, Yarmouth 36, Eye 4, Stoneham 12, and Botolphclaydon 7 miles. The stage coaches between Norwich (by Bury and Colchester) and London pass here daily. Post-chaises and horses are kept at the White Hart.

Concerning the capital manor we find that Ralph de Felgeres had it a long time, and at his death left it to his posterity, from whom it came to sir Aymer de Ieriles, and was held of him *anno* 1270 by Henry de Shelton, by the rent of 2s. 2d. per ann. This was a separate manor then, and the demesnes fifteen acres.

There was also another part in Osmundeston which this Henry de Shelton united in 1270 to the manor aforesaid, held of Roger Bigot. The Sheltons also had the advowson. From this family it came to the Adhams, and in 1553 John Aldham, of Shimpling, was lord and patron, who left it to William Aldham, and in 1561 he conveyed it to sir Thomas Cornwallis, knight, in whose time the stile of the court ran thus; *Osmundeston, nuper Aldhams, quondam Sheltons.*

In

In this noble family the manor hath ever since continued, the present earl Cornwallis being now both lord and patron.

BEZILE'S, or BOYLAND'S MANOR, was that part of Osmundeston that was in the crown in the time of king John, and was then worth 8l. 13s. 4d. per ann. it being an escheat of the Norman lands. This king gave it to Ralph earl of Chester, for life, at whose death it came to Henry III. who granted it to Ingerard de Tane, for life; he dying soon after, the same king gave it to sir William de Syvag. (or Sinagon) for life, and at his death to Ailmaric de Berriles, or Beziles, in 1272, to be held of him by knight's service, *in capite*; the manor then was thus valued, viz. the rent of assize of the freeholders at 6l. 12s. 7d. per ann. and of the copyholders in soccage at 32s. 6d. 1q.

Sir Aylmer, or Ailmaric, died in 1279, and the escheator seized on his lands for want of an heir. The king after the seizure did not hold it long; for in 1284 Edward I. granted in fee to sir Richard de Boyland and his heirs, all that sir Aylmer de Berrile held of him here, and in Sturston at half a knight's fee, from whom it took the name of Boyland's manor. This Richard was a great lawyer, and one of the justices of the King's-bench; he left it to sir John Boyland his son, from whom (but whether by purchase, or not, we cannot tell) it came to John de Lowdham who in 1345 paid 10s. for his relief; from which time it continually went as Frenze manor, till John Lowdham sold one moiety of it to John Wodehouse; the other moiety went with his daughter to the Bleverhaffets, and in 1561 John Bleverhaffet granted to sir Thomas Cornwallis, knt. who his heirs purchased the other half, after many conveyances of it from Wodehouse.

Wodehouse to Gryme, and from Gryme to Rant, and others, and in this family it hath continued ever since, it being now annexed to the capital manor.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle, having a square tower, and but one bell, though formerly there were five; the church, chancel, and south aile, are leaded, and the south porch is tiled.

On a black marble lying in the chancel, Fremoult impaling Bedingfield, for—*Elizabeth, wife of Joelis Fremoult, who died July 4, 1720, aged 53.*

In a south aile window were the arms of Lowdham, Braham, Shelton, and Ufford, with a bend arg. all which are now lost, except Lowdham.

This rectory is valued in the king's books at 9l. but is now discharged, being sworn of the clear yearly value of 46l. so that it is capable of augmentation, and is freed from first-fruits and tenths.

Here is an annual fair held on Easter Tuesday, April 17, 1781.

In 1603 here were 81 communicants, and in 1735 about forty dwelling-houses, and 230 inhabitants; it paid 1l. 17s. tenths, and was allowed 7s. deductions out of it; it was rated in the parliament affociation at 500l. and now to the king's tax at 435l.

In 1756 the Rev. Thomas Roger du Quesne, of East Tuddenham, was presented to the rectory of Ofmondeston, *alias* Scole, by the late right honorable Charles Cornwallis, earl Cornwallis, who dying June 23, 1762, was succeeded by the present earl Cornwallis,

wallis, now serving in America, and lord and patron here.

ROYDON, wrote in Doomſday-book Regedona. This church is dedicated to the honor of St. Remigius, who flouriſhed about the fifth century; the dedication day was kept on the 1ſt of October, being the day of his tranſlation. The rectory is valued in the king's books at 9l. but though the glebe lies valued at 51l. 3s. in the Terrier, yet the real meaſure, including the ſcite of the rectory-houſe, does not much exceed forty acres.

In 1603 there were 124 communicants, and in 1735 about ſixty families, and 240 ſouls; it is now aſſeſſed to the king's tax at 63ol. 10s. When the taxes were raiſed by tenths this paid 2l. 10s. and to the monthly levies during the aſſociation, ſometimes at the rate of 752l. and ſometimes 78ol.

The patronage was long in the Morleys, after whom it ſeems to be often changed.

In 1704 Robert Burroughs, of Diſs, gent. preſented. In 1746 the Rev. Francis Blomefield, " Author of an Eſſay towards an Hiſtory of Norfolk," preſented Edward Chappelow; and in 1777 the Rev. Leonard Chappelow had the rectory on his own preſentation, *p. j.*

The incloſure that joins to the ſouth part of the church-yard is called Chapel-cloſe, in the miſt of which formerly ſtood a chapel, dedicated to the honor of the Bleſſed Virgin, in which was a chantry of three or four prieſts, daily ſinging for the ſoul of ſir Robert de Morley, their founder. The foundation deed was produced in the cauſe between John lord Lovel,

Lovel, and Thomas lord Morley, about the arms of a lion rampant, which being on this seal, proved that lord Morley's ancestors had anciently used those arms. This chapel was well endowed, many free lands in Roydon were held by paying an annual rent to it; it was dissolved in 1547, and soon after pulled down, and the scite conveyed by the crown to lay hands; it was owned in 1735 by the Rev. Mr. John Dawney; it was founded about 1282, but being a free chapel without institution, it is never mentioned in those registers.

The prior of Eye, in Suffolk, had the tythes of about 1000 acres of land here, given to that monastery by Odo de Charune, who gave two parts of the tythes of his land in Roydon, in the Conqueror's time, and by Richard Hoveel, of Reindun, who gave all the tithes of his lands here; and in the charter of king Stephen, granted to that house in 1137, they were confirmed to the monks among their other revenues: and in the register, called Danoun, which formerly belonged to this priory, in the hands of the late Mr. Martin, of Palgrave, we find, that the portion of tythes belonging to the monks of St. Peter at Eye, lying in Roydon, were lett to the rector at two marks a year, and so continued for some time, till afterwards a perpetual composition was made for the rectors to pay 3s. 4d. per ann. Thus it continued till the dissolution, and then the pension went with the priory to the crown, from whence it was granted off, and hath since passed through many hands; it was some time payable to Catherine, queen of Charles II. but lately belonged to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Pyle, of Lynn-Regis.

Here

Here were several freeholds held of the honor of Eye.

In 1355 fir Robert de Morley, knt. confirmed to Edward III. the advowson of this church, with the chapels annexed, under divers limitations; notwithstanding which it hath all along passed with the manor.

The abbot of Sibton, in Suffolk, had temporals here taxed at 3s. being part of their manor, called Friars, in Shelfanger, which extended hither.

This church is very ancient, having its nave only standing, the south aisle having been a long time in ruins; it is covered with lead, though the chancel and south porch are tiled; the steeple (which is in a very ruinous condition) is round at bottom, and octangular at top, and had formerly four bells, but being unable to bear them, the parishioners obtained a faculty in 1680, and sold three of them.

The chancel seems to have been built by one of the Fitz-Walters, about the time of Henry I. buried here under an arch in the north wall, out of which the stone coffin, now standing in the church-yard, was taken some years ago, and the pavement, some of which still remains, was adorned with the arms of the Fitz-Walters.

In a north window are the arms of Ratcliff, earl of Suffex, and of Morley, and Knevet.

In the chancel are several stones with inscriptions, some of which are printed in le Neve's Monuments, and some are not; Mr. Blomefield gives transcripts of them all.

A black

A black marble in the midst of the chancel, for—*Robert Horner, gent. of Brissingham, son of the Rev. Robert Horner, rector here, who died December 4, 1708, aged 62.*—Here are also several other monuments in memory of this family.

Another black marble, for—*Henry Deynes, gent. obiit tertio die Aprilis, anno Dni. 1691, ætat. 61.*

Margaret, the wife of John Dawney, clerk, died the 3d of September, 1691, aged 61.

Hannah, wife of Thomas Deynes, gent. and one of the daughters of Clement Rolfe, gent. deceased, was here buried October 15, 1663.—The aforesaid Thomas Deynes died November 27, anno Dni. 1675.

On the south side of the chancel, in the church-yard, is an altar-tomb, covered with a black marble, having the arms of Burroughs impaling Camell; the inscription (composed by Dr. Camell) is as follows:—*Leetor, juxta hunc tumulum exuvias invenies, Roberti Burrough, Roberti et Mariæ Burrough, de Difs in com: Norf. gent. filij natu maximi, parentum spem, amicorum desiderium, præclusit mors heu! nimis immatura, ijt collegio Stæ. Trinitatis apud Cantab: 14 die Decemb: anno Dni. 1723, ætat. 19. Filio dilectissimo placide obdormiunt parentes ambo, charissimæ conjugis conjux ille amantissimus, unionem conjunctissimam mors ipsa vix, et ne vix quidem separabat prævit enim ille 28 die Jan: anno Dni. 1727, ætat. 52. Consequitur illa 6 die Mar: ætat. 46. Monumentum hoc sepulchrale pietatis et gratitudinis; ergo Gulielmus, filius eorum natu minimus mærens posuit.*

This village joins to Difs on the east, to Brissingham west, Shelfanger north, and the county river south;

South; it hath now two manors only, though formerly it had three, which were in one in the Conqueror's time, and was then two miles and a half long, and two broad, and paid 9d. Dane gelt; it was held by Lefriz, son of Bosc*, a thane, or guard, of the Confessor's, and was afterwards given by the Conqueror to Ralph de Bello-fago, or Beaufo, of whom it was held by Hugh at the time of the survey. It afterwards came to Hubert de Rhie, who died in 1171, without male issue, leaving his barony of Rhie divisible between his daughters, Isabella, and Aliva, the first of whom was married to Geffry de Chester, and at his death to Roger, son of Hugh de Cressi, who paid a fine of twenty marks and twelve palfreys to king John, for marrying her *without licence*; upon which the king revoked the seizure that he had made of all his lands in Norfolk, and elsewhere; it appears that he had for his part seventeen knights fees and an half, though the other part of the barony seems to have been the head, several of these fees being held of it.

In the 1st of king John, Robert Fitz-Roger, a great baron in Northumberland, gave 300 marks for Aliva, the younger daughter of Hubert de Rhie, to marry to his nephew; and in the 13th of the same king, John Marshal, his nephew, answered for seventeen fees and an half of that barony. In the 9th of king John he had obtained a grant in fee of the office of marshal of Ireland, and had livery of it in the 17th of that king; he died in 1234. Aliva, his wife, surviving him, who by the death of Isabel de Cressi, her sister, was heiress to the whole barony of Rhie; and agreeable to this, in the record called Testa de Neville, it is found that Roger de Cressi held one fee in

* (*Tegnus Regius*). This is sometimes rendered a thane, or nobleman, sometimes a freeman, sometimes a guard of the king's.

in this town of Walter Fitz-Robert, and that Matthew de Morley held another fee of the barony of Rhie, of which it was ever after held; it was this Robert that in 1253 had a grant of free-warren to this manor. At the death of Matthew aforesaid it descended to sir William de Morley, knt. who died before 1304. and Robert, his son and heir, married Hawise, sister and heiress of John Marshal, whereby the barony of Rhie, the marshallship of Ireland, and all the inheritance of the Marshals, came into the Morley family.

Thomas de Morley, marshal of Ireland in 1416, died seised, and left it to Elizabeth, his widow, for life; afterwards to Margaret, his daughter and heiress; she married Thomas Ratcliff, who in 1487 died seised, leaving it to Jeffry Ratcliff, of Frameldon, in Suffolk, esq. his son, who dying in 1504, without heirs male, the manor came to his three daughters and coheiresses; Elizabeth, married to Christopher Spelman; Eleanor, the second, to Thomas Lovel, junior, of Enfield; and Joan, the third, to John Sturgeons, of Cranwich.

In 1546 Thomas Sherman, of Yaxley, gent. and William Keuleburgh, gent. held the three parts by purchase, and thus it continued till 1586, at which time the courts then kept had two homages, one for this manor of Roydon-hall, and the other for Tuft's manor, which was joined to it; they extended into Roydon, Dis, Briffingham, and Shelfanger; it went in these families till about 1600, and then the whole was purchased by Edward Havers, and William Havers, esq. sold it to Mr. Robert Burrough, of Dis, whose youngest son, William, in 1733, sold it to Mr. Philip Dykes, of London.

The lect belongs to the hundred, the leet-fee being about 2s 5d. The advowson was always appendant to the manor till Mr. William Burrough, of Difs, fevvered it, by selling it to Mr. Edward Chappelow, of Difs, clerk, whose son is the present patron and rector.

The custom of this manor is, to the eldest son it gives dower, and the fine is at the lord's will. The scite of the manor of Roydon-hall, and the demesnes adjoining, are freehold, and were sold off about 200 years since, being late the estate of Mr. John Dawney, clerk.

GISSING-HALL MANOR, which was so called from a family of that name, the ancient lords thereof, and was originally in two parts, one of which belonged to the honor of Eye, and the other to the abbey of Bury; that belonging to Eye was held by Edric, the ancestor of Robert Malet, lord of that honor in the days of king Edward, and by one Walter in the Conqueror's time; the other was given to Bury abbey in 962, by Thurketel, the Dane. Afterwards it came to the abbey, they held it till the Conqueror's time, when it was held of them by Fulcher, being of the yearly value of 20s. It was soon afterwards joined to the other part, but was always held of the abbey, as that was of the honor, and William de Gissing in 1174 owned them both; from which time to 1579 it passed with the manor of Gissing-hall, in Gissing. In 1579 sir Arthur Heveningham, of Heveningham, knt. was lord. In 1590 Anthony Reve had it, who this year sold it to William Kettleburgh, gent. and in 1600 John Kemp, of Flordon, kept his first court. In 1612 John Kettleburgh, gent. held his first court; he sold it to John Pykarell, gent. in 1618; and in 1735 John Pykarell, gent. was lord.

The

The scite of this manor also, with the demesnes, are freehold, and were sold from the manor about 200 years since; and in 1735 were in the possession of Mr. Richard Waynforth.

The custom of this manor is, Borough English, that is, the copyhold falls by descent to the youngest son. the fine is arbitrary, but in all things else the tenants do as they please.

TUFT'S MANOR was erected after the time of the Conqueror, it being then, as it is now, included in the manor of Roydon-hall. In 1272 it belonged to Sampson de Roydon, or Reidon.

It came about the time of Henry III. to Wydo de Verdun, lord of Barfingham; in this family it continued some time. It was owned by William Roos towards the latter end of the 13th century, and soon after it fell into the great manor again. It was held of the barony of Rhie, which shews that it was a part of the great manor, at first granted to some younger branch of the Morley family.

The scite was granted from the manor along with Roydon-hall, and is now quite destroyed; the old motes still go by the name of Tuft's-hall-yard.

BRISSINGHAM MANOR extends into this town, and hath so done ever since the conquest; for we read that there were then four soc-men that had five acres of ground valued in that parish.

FILBY'S MANOR, in Brissingham, and Roydon, was joined to Boyland manor, in Brissingham.

The gifts to this parish are small viz.—Two acres of copyhold land, held at Giffing-hall, given long before 1577, as appears from the court books.

About 1609 William Kettleburgh, gent. gave 20s. per annum to the poor to be divided by the churchwardens where most need shall be; and there is a small house, now the sign of the Hart, with a garden thereto adjoining, tied for the payment of it, the overplus of which is the estate of Mr. John Dawney. Mr. Robert Horner, who died in 1708, gave the freehold close, called Fuller's, joining to the east side of the rectory-garden, for ever, to the rector, on condition that he preaches an annual sermon on Good Friday, and distributes 40s. per ann. to cloath four poor widows of Roydon.

The commons are very small, being called the Dort, Waynforth's-green, the Parsonage-green, and the Little-green, in all which they common alone, and intercommon on Roydon-green, which joins to Briffingham-pound.

The church of Roydon stands on the south side of the road, one mile west of Difs; two furlongs more west, on the north side of the road, is Roydon-house, the seat of John Frere, esq. most delightfully situated on an eminence which rises from the river, and commands an extensive and picturesque view into Suffolk. This gentleman is Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies.

SHELFANGER. This village hath gone by these following names; Scelvangra, Schelfangyll, Shelfangles, Shelfhangre, and now Shelfanger.

The church stands against the road leading from Difs to Winsfarthing, and hath a square tower, and
four

four bells; the nave is thatched, and the chancel and north porch are tiled; it is dedicated to All Saints, as was the guild that belonged to it. It is a rectory, and had anciently two rectors, each having institution to a mediety; the patronage of one belonged to Bosvile's, afterwards called Hoe's manor, and the other to Visedelieu's.

In 1375, March 21, sir John de Verdoun, knt. and Adam Bosvile, then patrons, considering the small revenues of each mediety, consolidated them for ever, at the death of Gilbert Colman, in John Basset, then rector of Bosvile's mediety, the presentation henceforward to be alternate.

In 1766 the Rev. Randall Burroughes was presented to the two medieties by Jeremiah Burroughes, esq. *p. h. v.* and in 1777 the Rev. George Betts was licensed curate.

On the font are the arms of Bosvile carved in stone, with A. on one side, and B. on the other, being the initial letters of the name of Adam Bosvile, who was patron in 1362, about which time this was set up; and in a south chancel window we find the same arms quartered by Noon.

Before the altar-rails lie three large stones, robbed of their arms and inscriptions; under the first lies Henry, son of sir Henry Noon, who died in 1487; and under the next lies Eleanor, his wife.

The arms of Visedelieu were on a stone in the chancel, but are now gone.

Under a small free-stone is buried,—*Robert, son of Robert Casbourne, of Isleham, in Cambridgehire, esq.*
L 3
and

and Abigail, his wife, who died March 27, 1722, aged 5 years.

Here is a town-house for two dwellers, a freehold close of three acres, lett at about 50s. a year, half the profits of which are given to the poor, and the other half to be applied to what uses the churchwardens please. The rector hath also a close of three acres, given to find bell-ropes, called Bell-rope-close. The commons are inconsiderable, except their intercommonage with Briffingham, on Boyland-green, and a large tract of meadows, which are called Lammas-meadows.

This parish in 1603 had 142 communicants, and in 1735 40 dwelling houses, and contained about 200 inhabitants. It paid to the old tenths 27s. was taxed to the association rates at 98ol. and now at 763l. 10s. It is valued in the king's books at 17l.

Here was a chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle, but when, or by whom founded, we cannot certainly learn, but most probable by some of the Veres, lords of Winfarthing; it stood on the great road leading from Shelfanger to Winfarthing, and by its not being mentioned in the institution books, appears to have been a free chapel; it was standing in 1518. for then Matt. Halyett, of Winfarthing, gave a bell to the chapel of St. Andrew, in Shelfanger. It was supported by lands given by the founder, all which at the dissolution came to the crown, and so remained till the 12th of Elizabeth, and then she gave them to Nicholas Mynne, esq. and John Hall, gent. and in 1587 they were held by the Cleres, of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty only; they are said to lie in Deep-meadow, and in other places in Shelfanger and Winfarthing.

The

The priory of Eye had a portion of tithes given them by Hugh de Aviliers, out of his demesne lands here, which was confirmed to the rector by that house, for a pension of 5s. 9d. a year, which at the dissolution went to the crown, and was granted for twenty-one years by queen Elizabeth to George Petre.

The monks of Thetford had also a portion of tithes here, which they granted to the rector for 18d. a year pension.

The inhabitants of North Lopham held a messuage, called Elwin's, and other lands, formerly demesnes of Shelfanger, Visedelieu manor; all which in 1412 were manumised by sir Edmund Noon, knt, lord of that manor, and granted to Richard Bosse, to be held by the rent of a red rose yearly. This Richard infeoffed the parson of Shelfanger, and others, to hold it for ever to the use of the parish of North Lopham, to repair their parish church. This land is still enjoyed by that parish.

The town was in divers parts at the survey; Colo, a freeman of Nasger Stalre, in the time of king Edward, had one manor, which in the Conqueror's time Hervicus, or Hervey, held, and Modephese, a free-woman of Algar's, had another, both being held of Alan earl of Richmond; the town was a league long, and half a one broad, and paid 9d to the gelt, or tax: From this time they continued separate, till they united in the Norfolk family; the one was afterwards called Hoe's, and the other Visedelieu's, to each of which a moiety of the advowson was appendant,

HOE'S MANOR was held all along of Richmond honor, and soon after the conquest belonged to Hue-line de Hugethale, or Uggeshale, so called from the place of his habitation. Roger was surnamed de Hoe for the same reason, and Peter, son of the said Roger, was called Peter de Schelfangell, and sometimes de Hoe.

Roger de Hoe gave lands here to Sibton abbey, and added to the manor by purchasing of Robert de Morley, and Roger de Giffing, kns. lords of Roydon, much land in that town, which occasioned this manor to extend thither; he lived about 1196, and his descendents inherited here.

In 1218 Guido, or Eudo de Hoe, *alias* de Shelfanger, was lord, who the same year had a grant of free-warren to his manor; he is sometimes in evidences called Eudo Fitz-Osbert, from his father: he granted his moiety of the advowson in 1227 to Ralph, son of Reginald, whose heirs in 1256 sold it to sir John de Hoe, and then it was joined again. In 1275 he was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, and paid the third penny of the county to the earl of Norfolk. He held much land here of Bury abbey, and many rents and services, to the value of 112 acres: to this sir John succeeded Eudo in 1276, in whose time it was first called Hoe's manor. How it continued from 1307 till 1345, we know not certainly, though it seems to be in a family surnamed De-la-Pole, of Briffingham; and it is probable that De-la-Pole's daughter might marry Boleville; for in 1362 Robert de Bolewill, or Boleville, had the manor. In 1423 Thomas Torrell, esq. had it, from whom it went in 1455 to Henry Noon, from which time it hath passed, joined with Visedelieu's manor, as it is at this day.

The

The MANOR of VISEDELIEU, or VICE DE LOU, which was the part held by Modephese, had its name from the lords thereof; Humfridus Visedelieu, or Wolf's-face, (for such is the signification of the name) lived in the time of the Conqueror, and held lands in Berkshire (as Doomsday-book informs us) whose descendent, William, was lord here in 1170. In this family it continued many ages.

Sir Thomas Visedelieu, knt. had free-warren to this manor, with the moiety of the advowson, and left two daughters, co-heiresses, between whom it was divisible. Isabel married sir John Verdon, knt. and Margaret, Thomas Mossells, esq.

The moiety of the advowson went with Verdon's part, and descended with the manor to sir Imbert Noon, of Shelfanger, who married Isabel, the daughter and heiress of sir John Verdon, about 1408, and presented in 1410. In 1412 sir Henry Noon, knt. succeeded, who this year had a grant of free-warren and liberty to inclose 310 acres for a park, but he died before he had compleated his design, leaving Henry Noon, esq. his son and heir, who much encreased his estate by his valiant exploits, being a brave soldier and an experienced officer. He constantly attended Henry V. in the French wars, where he behaved so gallantly, that the king gave him the castle, lands, and lordship of Fonde, in Normandy, which was late the earl of Montaigne's, being 2000 scutes a year. He died in 1465, leaving this manor to Elizabeth his wife, till Henry his son came of age, who enjoyed it till his death in 1487, and was buried under a large grave-stone in this chancel, the inscription of which is now torn off, but his arms lately remained. His wife, Eleanor, after his de-
cease,

cease, married William Lancaster, of Briffingham, esq. and after that Robert Wingfield, esq.

Henry Noon, son and heir, succeeded. In 1519 the said Henry, and Robert Holditch, (who was lord of the other moiety) manumised a great part of the manor. Whether it was this Henry, or his son Francis, that sold the manor, we cannot say, but it was purchased by the duke of Norfolk, who kept court here in 1532.

The other moiety went with Margaret, the other daughter, to Thomas Mossells, esq. her husband, who having no male issue, it came to their daughters, Margaret and Joan, so that this moiety was divided again; but in 1326 Richard Yaxley held the whole of this moiety, and in 1532 sold it to Thomas duke of Norfolk, and his heirs, who having purchased the other moiety of the Noons, as also Hoe's manor, became now sole lord and patron, and it hath been ever since, and now remains in that honourable family, the present duke being lord and patron.

Here was another manor, called FRIERS, which belonged to the abbey of Sibton, in Suffolk. This was formerly the possession of Edric, falconer to the Confessor, and had only fifteen acres demelnes at that time. This Edric was ancestor to Robert Malet, lord of Eye honor, who in the Conqueror's days, or soon afterwards, infeoffed Walter de Cadomo, (Caam, or Caus) in the barony of Horsford, to be held of his honor, with which this passed.

William de Cadomo, his great grandson, was called afterwards de Cayneto, de Chethmey, or Cheyney, who, according to his promise, founded the abbey of Sibton, in Suffolk, in his own land, in the
year

year 1149, endowing it with many revenues, and among them with this manor, which was then very small, but was soon after augmented by divers gifts given to that house. In 1361 it was lett to Bosevile, at 40s. per annum. In 1336 the abbot new-built Frier's-hall, at the expence of 50l. the demesnes were then 50 acres. In 1403 the convent leased out their whole possessions here to John Lancaster, esq. for seven years, at 3l. 1s. per annum, the demesnes being excepted: it now extended into Shelfanger, Roydon, Briffingham, and Difs, in Norfolk, and Thrandeston and Yaxley, in Suffolk. About 1530 Henry Noon farmed it, with one of acre marsh, in Briffingham, and the commonage of 200 sheep there, and so it continued till the twenty-eighth year of Henry VIII. in which year the abbot and monks, foreseeing what was coming upon them, bargained with Thomas duke of Norfolk, and resigned their house to him and his heirs, with all that belonged thereto, the duke having procured leave of the king that he might receive it, and hold it to him and his heirs for ever, which was confirmed by act of parliament in the thirty-first year of the reign of Henry VIII. and then it was joined to the other manors, with which it now continues. The commonage of the 200 sheep was laid to Visedelieu's, or Shelfanger-hall, as it is now called, and Frier's-hall was soon after demolished. It stood just by the gate going from Briffingham-common to Shelfanger-hall.

SHELFANGER MANOR, *alias* D'AVELER's, was originally the demesnes of the Confessor, afterwards given (either by him or some other) to St. Edmund's abbey, at Bury, of which it was held in the Conqueror's time.

The

The first part constituted the manor called D'Aveler's. The second was in the abbey till the dissolution, with other lands that were afterwards given. The third was joined to Briffingham manor, and always attended it. As to the first it was very early granted from the abbey in two parts, which soon after was joined, and in 1190 Hugh de Vilere was lord. The possessions of this Hugh, which laid here, and in Broome, and Arwarton, in Suffolk, were then worth 40l. per annum, and were all held by serjeanty, viz. "by the service of conducting the foot soldiers of the two counties of Norfolk and Suffolk for 40 days, at the king's summons, from St. Edmund's-ditch, now called the Devil's-ditch, on Newmarket heath, to the king's army in Wales, for which he was to have fourpence of each for conduct money, and the rest, for their maintenance, was to be at the king's cost;" and by this tenure it always passed.

John de Avilers sold all to Walter de Shelfanger, and John de Sotesbrook, or Stokesbrook, who afterwards became one of the heirs of the said Walter, and in 1286 took possession by the king's licence, and had free-warren allowed him in all his lands. This manor had a house and park, and by marriage these manors came to sir Oliver Calthorpe. It was afterwards divided into many parts, by which the manor was all lost, except some trifling rents which were in the duke of Norfolk in 1536, it was then called Sherwood's, in Shelfanger: it remains now with the other manor.

The other part, which was Loverd's, was made a free tenement, and called by the owner's name, to which many services belonged, and daily increased; as the owners of the tenements sold off their lands, all which they made payable to the cellarer of the
abbey

abbey, to discharge the capital tenement of the rent and service due from it to the abbey, and when enough was sold to answer that purpose, it became a freehold only, and as such has passed ever since. These came to Henry VIII. who gave some of them to divers persons, and others were granted to Norton, &c. by queen Elizabeth, to be held free of the manor of East Greenwich, in Kent.

Here was another free tenement, called Winfarthing Tenement, from its situation on the great road near that place; it laid in Shelfanger, and anciently belonged to the Bardwells, being held of their manor of Gatesthorpe by the annual rent of a pound of pepper: half of it in 1280 was owned by Walter de Winfarthing, who paid half a pound of pepper for himself and all his tenants, which were about thirty in number; some of them were obliged to double service for their lands, viz. to pay one rent to the lord of the tenement, and another to the chief lord of the fee: the other half was held by John le Lord, and his tenants, by the same services.

These manors in 1532 were all in Thomas duke of Norfolk, and being then joined, have continued together without any other distinction, as they do at this day, the stile of the court running thus; "Shelfanger, Visedelieu's, Hoe's, and Frier's."

The customs are these, the eldest son inherits, they can sell timber, pull down, build up, plant, and cut down on the copyhold, and waste without licence, but the fines are at the lord's will. The leet belongs not to the manor, but hath passed with Diss hundred, the lord of which keeps it at this time, and hath 2s. leet-fee.

SHIMPLING,

SHIMPLING, or SHIMPLINGHAM, as it is wrote in Doomſday-book, is bounded on the eaſt by Dickleburgh, on the weſt by Burſton, on the ſouth by Thelveton, and on the north by Giſſing: it is a rectory appendant to the manor, and being diſcharged of firſt fruits and tenths is capable of augmentation. The rectory hath a houſe and ſixteen acres of glebe. Norwich Doomſday book ſays, that Richard de Boyland was then patron. and that the rector had a houſe and 15 acres of land. It is valued in the king's books at 10l. 13s. 4d. and the glebe amounts to about 20 acres.

In 1753 the Rev. Stephen Whiſton was preſented to this rectory by Robert Buxton, clerk, *p. j.* but in 1771 the ſaid Rev. Robert Buxton held it as rector and patron, Edward Moon being liſenſed curate in 1777.

The church had a ſteeple, round at bottom, and octangular at top, and four ſmall bells; it is leaded, though the chancel is thatched, and the north porch tiled. It is dedicated to St. George, whoſe effigy, with his ſhield, viz. arg. a plain croſs gul. is to be ſeen in a ſouth window of the chancel, and ſeems to be as old as the building, which in all appearance was in the beginning of the 13th century, (though the ſteeple is much older) for then William de Shimpling was lord and patron, whoſe arms ſtill remain under this effigy.

Here was a guild in honor of the ſame ſaint, and a chapel dedicated to St. Mary, which ſtood on Shimpling-hithe, of which there are no remains, being down before the general diſſolution, for we meet with no grant of it at that time.

St. George and the dragon, and the arms of Shimpling, are carved on the font. The chancel is covered with large grave-stones, all disrobed of their brasses; several of them were laid over the rectors, as appears from the chalice and wafer upon them, that being the symbol of a priest. The rest, that had arms, we take to be laid over the Shimplings, and the Shardelowses.

On a small stone, towards the west end of the church, *Richard Lessingham, ob. 5 die Octob. anno Dni. 1705, ætatis suæ—*

On a marble, near the pulpit, the arms of Potter; —*Cicill Potter, gent. dyed Jan. 29, 1693, aged 70.*

Here are twelve penny loaves given to as many poor people, by the rector and churchwardens, on the first Sunday in every month, there being land tied for it*.

In the Confessor's time Torbert held this manor of Stigand, it being then worth 20s. of whom the part in Gissing was also held by another freeman, and was then of 5s. value, but was risen to ten in the Conqueror's time, though Shimpling continued at the same value. This, as one manor, was given by the Conqueror to Roger Bigot, who gave it to Robert de Vais, de Vallibus, or Vaus, it being then a mile and quarter long, and a mile broad; the whole paid 5d gelt. There was then a church and ten acres of glebe, valued at 12d. and several other manors extended hither. The Vais's held it of Bigot's successors till 1237, in which year Oliver de Vallibus granted

* This was left by W. Dennington, of Mendham, yeoman.

granted it to Richard Rupella (afterwards called Rokele) to be held of him by knight's service.

In 1280 Roger de Shimpling held it by knight's service of Richard Rokele's heirs, and was lord of the manor and patron. Roger de Shimpling presented in 1328, and held till about 1345, when he was dead, and Emma his wife had it, at whose death it fell divisible between their three daughters, and was first held by John de Kirtling, and then by the de Ellinghams.

How it went from the de Ellinghams we don't know, but imagine it must be by female heiresses; for in 1521 Humphry Wingfield had a moiety of it, and John Aldham had another part; he died in 1558 and was buried in this chancel, leaving his part to John, his son, who held it jointly with Bonaventure Shardelowe in 1571; Mr. Aldham had a fourth part of the manor, and a third turn, and Mr. Shardelowe three parts and two turns. The patronage and manor was in Mr. John Motte, who was buried October 7, 1640*. It looks as if the Mottes had Aldham's part, and afterwards purchased Shardelowe's of Mr. John Shardelowe, who held it till 1611. He conveyed it to Edmund Skipwith, esq. and Anthony Barry, gent. and they to Thomas Wales, and John Basely, gents. who conveyed it to the Mottes, from whom

* 1640, 7th October, Mr. John Motte, my afflicted patron, was buried by me, Nich. Colte.—Memorandum, that the last day of February, or the first of April, 1636, I sealed a licence, and delivered it to my present patron, M^r. Motte, allowinge him liberty accordinge to the statute in this case provided to eat some fleshe meate this Lent, for his comfortable relief in his present sickness and weakness in nature." Teste me, N. Colte, rectore ib.

whom, we are apt to think, it came to the Proctors, for John Buxton, of St. Margaret's, in South Elmham, had it in right of his wife, who was kinswoman and heiress of Mr. Proctor, rector of Giffing. After this it came to Robert Buxton, esq. who died and left it to Elizabeth his wife, who is since dead, and Elizabeth Buxton, their only daughter, a minor, was lady and patroness in 1735. It is now with the Rev. Robert Buxton.

The lect belongs to the manor, and the fine is at the lord's will. As to the other parts of this village, they being parts of the manors of Tivetshall, Fersfield, and Briffingham, it is sufficient to observe, that they went with those manors, except that part held by Fulco, of which the register called Pinchbeck, folio 182, says, that Fulco, or Fulcher, held of the abbot in Simplingaham and Giffing seventy acres and four borderers, being infeoffed by abbot Baldwin, in the time of the Conqueror. This manor about the time of Edward I. was in sir John Shardelowe, a judge in that king's reign, in whose family it continued till 1630, when it was sold to Mr. Motte. The seat of the Shardelowes is now called the Place, and is the estate of the duke of Grafton, and formerly belonged to Isaac Pennington, alderman of London, one of those regicides that sat as judges at the king's trial, for which he was knighted. He lived to the restoration, when his estates were seized as forfeited to Charles II. who gave this to the duke of Grafton; upon the forfeiture, the copyhold on the different manors were also seized, which is the reason that the quit-rents to Giffing, Tivetshall, &c. are so large, they being made so when the lords regranted them.

This parish had sixty-nine communicants in 1603, and in 1735 twenty-three houses and about 130 inhabitants.

habitants. The town is valued at 300l. per annum. Here are three acres of town-land, one piece is a small pightle abutting on the land of Robert Leman, esq. another piece is called Susan's-pightle, lying in Giffing, and was given by a woman of that name to repair the church-porch (as we are informed); the other piece lies in Difs-Heywood, and pays an annual rent of 5s.

The commons are, Kett's-fenn, which contains about four acres; Pound-green, one acre; Hall-green, four acres; the Bottom, six acres; and the Lower-green, six acres.

TIVETSHALL, or TITSHALL. is variously written in different ages, first Toteffala, Tiveteshall, or Tyvetshall, and Titshall, afterwards Tisteshale, now Tivetshall St. Mary and St. Margaret; these churches and manor were begged of his parents by Syward, a monk of Bury, whom Leofstan the abbot had made dean, who at his request gave it to that monastery; and in 1274 it appears that he was son of Ofulph le Sire, who held it of the crown *in capite*, by the annual rent of 20s. which the abbot paid quarterly at Norwich castle, by the name of waytefee, and held it as part of his barony, having court-leet, assize of bread and ale, and liberty of free-warren; the whole was allotted by the convent to the abbot's own use, who was taxed for his temporalities here at 30l. 12s. 4d. and paid yearly 5s. 10d. to the lord of the hundred to excuse him and his tenants from all suit to his hundred-court. In the time of the Confessor there were two churches, with forty acres of land, and the manor extended into Giffing and Shimpling, and was then valued at 7l. and in the Conqueror's time at 9l. 15s. it being then a league and four furlongs long, and half a league broad, and paid 17d. gelt; from
this

this time it continued in the abbots till the dissolution of their monastery, when it was seized by the crown, and was granted by Henry VIII. in the year 1542, to John Cornwallis*, who for his singular courage and conduct under Thomas duke of Norfolk, at the taking of Morlaix, in Bretagne, had the honor of knighthood then conferred on him, and soon after his return from those wars was made steward of the household to prince Edward; he died seized in 1549, at Ashbridge, in Buckinghamshire, and is buried under a noble monument in Berkhamsted church, in that county, leaving it to Thomas Cornwallis, knt. his son and heir, who had then livery of it; he being sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in the last year of the reign of Edward VI. raised great forces against the opposers of queen Mary's title; for which services he was first sworn one of the privy council, then made treasurer of Calais, and afterwards comptroller of her household; at his death, in 1604, it went to sir William Cornwallis, knt. of Brome, in Suffolk, who died seized November 13, 1610. leaving it to Frederick Cornwallis, his son and heir, who was created baronet by Charles I. by letters patent, dated May 4, 1627, and "having served that prince both
 " in court and camp with great fidelity, for which he
 " suffered in those unhappy times both imprison-
 " ment, exile, and the loss of his estate; in testimo-
 " ny of which, to reward his great merits and ac-
 " complishments," he was by Charles II. in 1661, made a baron of the realm, by the title of lord Cornwallis, baron of Eye, in Suffolk: at his death it went to Charles lord Cornwallis, his son and heir,

M 2

who

* Upon the grant there was a fee-farm rent of 4l. 6s. 5d. ob. reserved, which was paid to the crown till William III. granted it to the lord Ossulton, to whom it was paid in 1688, and belongs to his excellency now, (1735) so that the manor is discharged of it.

who is buried at Culford, in Suffolk; he left it to Charles lord Cornwallis, his son and heir, who was one of the lords of the admiralty in the reign of William III. and lord lieutenant of the county of Suffolk; he left it to Charles lord Cornwallis, his son and heir, at whose death it descended to the late Charles lord Cornwallis, his son and heir, who sold it to Horatio lord Walpole, whose son, the present Horatio lord Walpole, of Woolterton, is lord and patron.

Another part of this town belonged to Winfarthing manor; another to the abbot of Ely's manor of Pulham; another to William bishop of Thetford, which was of his own inheritance, and not in right of his bishopric, at the conquest, of 20s. value; it was afterwards held by the le Neves, from whom it was called le Neve's Tenement, in which family it continued till the 16th century; and another part of this manor extended into Giffing.

Besides these there were several tenements, or manors, as they are often called, all which had their origin by the abbots infeoffments, and are now included in the great manor.

In 1307 William Bateman, bailiff of Norwich, a man famous in his time, from whom sprung William Bateman, bishop of Norwich, purchased a free tenement here.

It appears in the register, called Pinchbeck, fol. 195, that Walter, a son of the dean of Norwich, held a free tenement, with sixty acres of land, and divers rents and services, of the abbot's grant; it belonged afterwards to Thomas de Pakenham, then to
John

John de Hoe, who infeoffed fir Richard de Boyland in it, who held it in 1294.

The MANOR called UPHALL had its first rise in the time of Samson abbot of Bury, who first infeoffed Thomas de Tisteshall in it, and soon after it came to fir Adam de Tisteshall, knt. It continued to be held by this family, though they quite left off the surname of Tisteshall, and took Uphall. It was sold to fir Edward Jenney about 1500; from the Jenneys it came to the crown, and was granted in the 24th of Henry VIII. to the duke of Norfolk, who afterwards conveyed it to Edward White, of Totfall, to be held of the manor of Forncet, by knight's service; his son, George White, sold it to John Cornwallis, esq. and so it fell into the great manor; it extended at that time into Dickleburgh, Shimpling, Moulton, Pulham, Giffing, and Watton.

Several lands settled for *objets*, and other superstitious uses, were seized in 1547, and were granted to Thomas Wodehouse, gent. and his heirs, to be held in soccage of the king's manor of Brooke.

The customs of the manor are these; "the fine is at the lord's will, the copyhold descends to the eldest son, they cannot waste their copyhold houses, nor sell timber, without licence."

In 1266 (44th of Henry III.) there was an extent made of this manor, at which time the copyholders of Tivetshall and Shimpling*, if the lord was at

M 3

Bury,

* In 1266 the consuetudinary, or copyholders belonging to the manor, were thirty in number, and each had twelve acres allotted him, for which they were to do all the lord's work, by whom

Bury, were obliged to carry two parts of the abbot's provision, and the men of Dickleburgh and Semere the other third part; the lord had then a large park, and a sneid, or sneith, fenced round, which was repaired by the tenants yearly: William de Uphall held this manor by the payment of 4s. 2d. per ann. and 8d. a year to the abbot, to be free from suit of the hundred-court, for which freedom the abbot paid 5s. a year for the whole town. All who held free tenements, or small manors, under the abbot, were to do suit to the abbot's court, and to plow and cart with all the cattle they had for the lord, and were to pay a third part of the abbot's general aid for Tivetshall and Shimpling, and to find a third part of the lord's wine, and to carry it to Palgrave-bridge, and to fence in the park, sneid, and slack-yards, and repair them yearly, these free tenements being first granted by the abbots to be held of their chief manor upon these conditions.

Here are two churches, about a mile distant from each other; the mother church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin; the other is a parochial chapel, whose patroness is St. Margaret, both of ancient foundation, even before the Conqueror; it was always a single institution, appendant to the manor, as it still remains, though the parishes are separate, and hath now, and ever had, distinct officers; it is valued in the king's books at 20l.

In 1367, May 2. sir Thomas de Botetourt, sub-deacon, one of an ancient and good family in this county, was instituted, but upon his institution was obliged

whom they were to be maintained, and have 8d. a piece every summer, and a perch of grafs, and a bundle of hay, and 6d. every autumn.

obliged to swear to William de Knapeton, then archdeacon of Norwich, that whereas he was then a pluralist, and held Eufstone and Trostone livings in this diocese, both which had care of souls, that he would immediately resign one, unless he obtained a dispensation from the pope, as soon as he quietly received the profits of Tivetshall.

In 1603 the rector answered, that he held these two churches, being one benefice, with the benefice of Heigham by Norwich; he was instituted June 15, 1600, and presented by sir Thomas Cornwallis, knt.

In 1765 the Rev. Thomas Martin was presented by the right honorable Horatio lord Walpole to the rectory of Tivetshall St. Mary, with St. Margaret.

St. Mary's is the mother church, over which the bishop and archdeacon's visitatorial power extends; it is an old building, having its nave, chancel, and south porch, thatched, a square tower, and five bells.

The following arms were formerly in the windows of the church, steeple, and chancel, but are all lost, except these first three, viz. Botetourt, Fitz-Otes, England, St. Edward the Confessor, the East Angles, St. Edmund, Boyland, Kerdeston, Ufford, Lowdham, and Norwich; Bacon impaling Scales. On the rood-loft an escutcheon of lady Jarnegan, viz. 1. Jarnegan. 2. Ingaldesthorp. 3. Fitz-Osbert. 4. Mortimer. 5. Arg. on a chev. fab. three escallops erm. 6. Pierpoint. 7. Or. a saltyr ingrailed in a bordure fab.

On a grave-stone were Ailmer's arms; it lies in the chancel, but the effigies, arms, and inscription, are gone.

Here are two black marbles; one hath an escutcheon for—*John Boys, rector, who died December 30, 1661.*—The other is for—*Helen, his wife, who died September 1, 1661.*

In the church-yard, on the south side, is an altar-tomb, covered with black marble, for—*Mary, wife of Robert Kettle, daughter and heiress of Mr. William Fuller, of Briffingham, who had four children, all buried by her, obiit Feb. 27, 1728, aged 63.*

The parochial chapel of St. Margaret acknowledges no visitatorial power but that of the bishop only; for it pays the archdeacon no procurations, but as much again as the mother church does, to the bishop for synodals. The nave and south porch are leaded, the chancel thatched, the tower is square, and hath five bells in it.

In the chancel, under an arch in the north wall, is an old free-stone altar-monument, with a cross formy on it, but no inscription to discover who he was, though without doubt it was for some religious person that founded the chancel.

On a brass,—*Hic jacet Brigitta, nuper uxor Antonij Barry, generosi, que obiit 4 die Maij, anno 1635, aetat. 21.*

Here are three black marbles; the first for—*Christopher Burrell, late rector, who died January 6. 1701.*—The second for—*Charles son of the Rev. Charles Gibbs, rector, and Elizabeth, his wife, who died April*

22, 1721, aged 16 years.—The third for—Mrs. Margaret Stannard, relict of Mr. John Stannard, late of this parish, first married to Thomas Halls, gent. she died September 1, 1735, in the 75th year of her age.

The customs of this rectory are these; they pay 6d. for every calf under seven, 1d. ob. for every cow, instead of tythe milk, and 1d. every house for harth-silver. for all wood burnt in the town, all wood sold out of town pays tythe according to its value, and all other tythes belonging to this rectory are paid in their proper kinds.

The parish of Tivetshall St. Mary hath a small cottage situate near the church, a piece of land containing half an acre, which abuts on Mill-green north, south, and east, and on Henry Goodwin's lands west, a small piece, called Sent's-yards, about one rood, rented at 6s. per ann. 10l. in money, the interest of which is given to the poor yearly upon Easter Monday, and the poor receive yearly 10s. from the churchwardens of St. Margaret's.

The parish of St. Margaret, in Tivetshall, hath six acres of land lying in Moulton, part is copyhold, and part free, which is rented at 3l. 10s. a-year, and was given by Jeffery Neeve; it abuts on Moulton common on the west, Mr. Fulcher's on the south, and on the way leading to Moulton High-green on the east; the rent is received by the churchwardens, 16s. 8d. is paid every Easter to the poor of St. Margaret's, and 10s. to the poor of St. Mary's as aforesaid, the rest is given towards repairing the church.

The commons are, Tivetshall-green. Bateman's-green Mill green, Pound green, and Beck-green, all of them containing about 100 acres.

In 1603 there were 93 communicants in St. Mary's parish, and 108 in St. Margaret's; there were in 1735 about 35 dwelling-houses in St. Mary's, and 150 inhabitants, and 40 in St. Margaret's, and 180 inhabitants: they were valued at 3l. together to the tenths, and 1394l. to the parliament valuation, but now they are assessed single to the land tax, viz. St. Mary's at —l. and St. Margaret's 544l.

Near the sixteen mile stone from Norwich, on the turnpike-road to Bury, Ipswich, and London, is an inn called Tivetshall Ram, where post-chaifes and horses are licensed to be lett.

THELVETON, THELTON, or, as it is wrote in Doomfday-book, Telvetaham, Telvetunam, and Telventuna, had two manors, besides a part that belonged to the honor of Eye.

The manor that belonged to Ely was granted from that church, among others, to Henry de Rhie, and was afterwards by the Marshalls, who succeeded in that honor, given to the Scales', who in 1282 held both the manors. Jeffery de Scalarijs, Scalers. or Scales, died seized the year following. Hardevinus de Scalers, the first of note of the family, was one of the valiant Normans that assisted the Conqueror in his great expedition, who gave him many manors, and made him baron by tenure.

The advowson of the rectory was given to the convent of St. Mary Overy, in Southwark, very early, by some one of this family, all the rectors that are to be met with in the institution books being presented by the priors there till the dissolution, and from that time by the crown, where the patronage now remains; the

the priors had a portion of 5s. paid out of the rectory, which was taxed at 6d.

A quarter of a fee of the manor of Thelveton laid in Giffing, and was alienated by Thomas de Scalarijs to one of the family surnamed de Thelveton; and John de Scalers, or Scales, died in 1466, leaving Thelveton and Whaddon to Maud, his wife, who died in 1470, and left three daughters, coheiresses; Alice, married to John Moore; Ann, to John Harcourt; and Margaret, unmarried; but to which this was allotted we find not, neither can we tell who owned it till 1538, March 10, and then it belonged to Beatrix Harman, sole daughter and heiress to Henry Moine, esq. who was lord of Thelveton. George Bowgham, esq. next kinsman and heir to the said Beatrix, immediately after had the estate released to him and his heirs; this George the same year settled it on William Rogers, and Catherine, his wife, and their heirs; and Catherine surviving her husband, in 1554, April 24, sold the manor to John Stubbe, gent. whose eldest son, John Stubbe, gave it to Ann, his wife, to be sold, of whom Thomas Havers, of Winfarthing, gent. in 1592 purchased it, and died in 1605; from which time it hath passed in a lineal descent in this family.

The Havers' had their rise under the Norfolk family, which they have served for many generations; John Havers was gentleman of the horse to John duke of Norfolk, and attended him in the battle at Bosworth-field, where that duke was slain; John Havers, of Winfarthing, in Norfolk, was steward to the family, as was Thomas Havers, his son, who purchased the manor, and built the present mansion-house, which is a good brick building, and very uniform; John, his second son, was bailiff to the earl of Arundel

Arundel in 1610; Edward, his third son, was steward of his courts; and Thomas, his fourth son, was farmer of the parks; William Havers continued the same office at his father's death, and Thomas Havers, gent. the present lord, now hath it.

The customs of the manor are these; the copyhold descends to the youngest son, the fine is at the lord's will, the tenants cannot waste their copyhold houses, nor fell timber without licence; it gives no dower.

This rectory is valued at 9l. in the king's books, and being discharged of first-fruits and tenths, is capable of augmentation; it hath a rectory-house, which, with three acres of land belonging to it, was given to the church in 1375, when the rector obtained a licence in mortmain to confirm it. At the time of the Lincoln taxation the rector had twenty-two acres of glebe; the rectory was valued at seventeen marks, besides the prior of Southwark's portion of 5s. out of it, and in the Norwich taxation the portions of the canons of Southwark were taxed at seven marks.

The church is a small building, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south porch, all tiled, and a square steeple and two bells only, one being formerly sold to repair the church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle.

On two flat stones by the altar; the first hath Havers' arms;—*Hic jacet corpus Thomæ Havers, qui obiit Febr. 1, anno Dni. 1697, ætat. suæ 66. Requiescat in pace.*—*Ann, eldest daughter of Thomas Bramton, of Norton, esq. first married to Edward Kene, and after to Thomas Nash, died the 16th of December, 1625.*

A small

A small mural monument on the south side of the chancel, to—*Mary Englefield, wife of Thomas Havers, esq. obiit 21 Octob. anno Dni. 1682.*

This village in the Conqueror's time was two miles long, and one broad, and paid 7d. Dane-gelt. In 1603 there were 74 communicants; and in 1735 20 houses, and 100 inhabitants: it paid to the tenths 2l. and was valued at the association tax at 612l. the present value being 475l. The leet belongs to the hundred, the leet-fee being 1s.

The commons are, Atte-green, which joins to Dickleburgh, and contains about fifteen acres; Hill-green, about eighty acres; Bottom-common, about ten acres; West-common, about fifty acres, and Little-green, and they intercommon on Scole-green.

THORPE *Parva*, or LITTLE THORPE, is a small village on the east part of Scole, having only four houses in it; the name of *Torp*, in Saxon, signifies a manor-house, and this is called in ancient evidences Thorp Mannewen, probably from Ralph de Manerij, or Manors, lord thereof, and Little Thorpe, or *Parva* Thorpe, to distinguish it from Thorpe Abbots, which lies near it. It paid to the tenths 1l. 4s. out of which 4s. was deducted; the parliament valuation was 148l. and the present value is 120l. It is a rectory, but a *sinecure*, the church, which is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, being quite demolished; the ruins of the steeple, which was round, still remain.

In 1603, in the manuscript called "The Answers of the Parsons," it is thus entered; "Robert Dale, farmer of this benefice, saith, that there are about five communicants, that it is a rectory presentative, valued in the king's books at 4l. that Edward
" D'oyly,

“ D’oyly, esq. is patron of it, (as it is said) who receive the tythes, and so hath done of a long time; that the parishioners hear Divine service at Billingsford.” It being sworn not to exceed the clear yearly value of 30*l.* per annum, is capable of augmentation, and neither pays first-fruits, or tenths; the advowson now is, and always was appendant to the manor.

In 1469 William White, esq. of this parish, who was lord and patron, ordered his body to be buried in the chancel of the church of the Blessed Virgin at Thorpe *Parva*, so that the church was in use at that time, and we believe long after.

In 1739, June 12, the rectory of Thorpe *Parva* was consolidated with Billingsford, *alias* Pryleston, in Earsham hundred; and in 1742 the Rev. John Barker, senior, was presented to both by Rowland Holt, esq. of Redgrave, in Suffolk. The Rev. John Malyn was presented in 1772.

This town belonged to Edric, who held it of Edric, the ancestor of Robert Malet, lord of the honor of Eye, of whom it was held by Hubert in the Conqueror’s time, when the manor extended (as it now does) into Thelveton, the whole being valued at 10*s.* in the Confessor’s, and 20*s.* per ann. in the Conqueror’s time; the soc belonged then to the king, to whom it paid 3*d.* gelt, being a mile long, and three quarters of a mile broad; it afterwards came to the Munchensies, who held it of the honor of Eye, which was held of the king *in capite*.

In 1206 William de Weston was owner of it, and this year released it to Alan Pictaviensis, (afterwards called Alan de Goldyngham); and in 1256 Daniel
de

de Beccles held it of the said Alan, by the service of one knight's fee, he of William de Montecaniso, (or Montchenfy) he of the earl of Cornwall, as of Eye honor, and he of the king.

John de Neckton owned it in 1315; it afterwards came to the Whites; for in 1469 William White, of Thorpe *Parva*, esq. had the manor and advowson; Richard, his third son, succeeded, and held it till 1492; but being attainted of high treason, his estates were seized by the king, who granted them to Henry Wiot; but the attainder being taken off, it reverted to the family; for John, the fourth son, who was doctor of divinity, instituted to Filby rectory in 1505, which he resigned in 1512, inherited on the entail, and died seized, leaving Edmund, his son and heir, who died in 1551, and left Ann, his sister, his heiress, who was then the wife of Henry D'oyly, of Shottisham, who held it of the king as of his honor of Eye; and in 1632 Henry D'oyly was lord and patron.

In 1715 Thomas Robinson, gent. was lord and patron, and some time after it was purchased by John Sayer, of Eye, esq. who sold it to John Holt, esq. at whose death it descended to Rowland Holt, of Redgrave, esq. who is now lord and patron.

The leet belongs to the manor, so that the lord of the hundred hath no jurisdiction in this town.

WINFARTHING. This rectory is capable of augmentation, being sworn of the clear yearly value of 45*l*. The monks of Thetford had a portion of tythes here, formerly valued at 20*s*. The church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. Nathaniel Hallet tied a close, called Cocky's-close, for certain religious purposes, for ever, and was buried in this church

church. It was soon after appropriated by the bishop of Norwich to the monks of Burley, a pension of 26s. 8d. payable quarterly, being reserved out of the great tithes to the vicar, all which was several times confirmed by the archbishops of Canterbury and so it continued till 1424, and then Reginald de Gray, lord Hastings, &c. recovered the advowson from them, and presented a rector, from which time it hath continued a rectory. It seems they could produce no grant from the king for the advowson, nor confirmation from the pope of the appropriation. Here is a small rectory-house, barn, stable, back-house, and 24 acres of glebe, and a piece without contents. It is valued in the king's books at 12l.

In 1610, Sept. 20, Sam. Garey, LL. B. was presented by John Holland, esq. trustee to the Howard family: he was prebendary of Norwich, and author* of many sermons, and other divinity tracts, some printed, some MSS. In 1774 the Rev. Combe Miller was presented to this rectory by the right hon. George Keppel, earl of Albermarle, p. j. a minor.

The tower is square, having a peal of five bells in it, the nave, south aisle, and north porch are leaded, the chancel is thatched.

On a brass plate in the nave;—*Hic jacet Matthæus Hallyet, qui mortem obiit 3 die Maij, anno Dni. 1586, anno ætatis suæ 54.*—*Thomas Hallyet, gent. second son of Robert Hallyet, gent. (who also lyeth buried in this church) died July 18, 1612, aged 48.* Many of this family (who were considerable owners) are buried in this

* In 1618 he published a book called, Great Britain's Little Calendar.

this church, several of their stones being robbed of their brasses.

About 1600 the following arms were in the windows, all which are now defaced, except the East Angles and St. Edmund's; Valence's earl of Pembroke, Monchenfy's, Bohun's, and Hetherfet's.

In the south aisle there is a black marble, for—*Elizabeth Belville, alias Michell, who died April 5, 1683. aged 23.*

Here was a clock formerly, which now stands disused in the south aisle; and in a chapel at the upper end thereof was placed a famous sword, called the good sword of Winfarthing, of which Bacon in his *Reliques of Rome*, printed in 1563, fol. 91, gives us the following account:

“ In Winfarthing, a little village in Norfolke, there was a certeyne swerd, called the good swerd of Winfarthing; this swerd was counted so precious a relique, and of so great virtue, that there was a solemne pilgrimage used unto it, wyth large gistes and offringes, with now makings, crouchinges, and kissinges: This swerd was visited far and near, for many and sundry purposes, but specially for thinges that were lost, and for horses that were eyther stolen, or else rune astray; it helpid also unto the shortning of a married man's life, if that the wyfe which was weary of her husband, would set a candle before that swerd every Sunday, for the space of a whole yeare, no Sunday excepted, for then all was vain, whatsoever was done before.”

“ I have many times heard (says that author) when I was a child, of diverse ancient men and women,
N men,

men, that this sword was the sword of a certayne theif, which took sanctuary in that church-yard, and afterwards through the negligence of the watchmen escaped, and left his sword behind him, which being found, and laid up in a certayne old chest, was afterwards, through the futility of the parson and the clerk of the same parish, made a precious relique, full of vertue, able to do much, but specially to enrich the box, and make fat the parson's pouch."

How many candles would have been set up in the present age before the "good sword of Winfarthing," if it had still remained, and preserved its former virtue? and what a number of bills of *divorce* would have been spared the Legislature in passing, and what great expences to noble families and others in suing out actions of *crim. con.* How many private secrets of family-failings and discontents had been *brought to light* before this unerring sword, for the enriching of the *parson's pouch*? The rectory of Winfarthing in such a case would probably be better than the best *bishopric* in England—in point of annual income.

Algar, a freeman of Harold's, held all Wineferthing as one manor in the time of the Confessor; at the survey it was in the Conqueror's own hands, and then extended into Burston, Shimpling, Tivetshall, and Shelfanger; it was valued in the first survey at 40s. and by the Conqueror at 8l. 3s. 4d. with the freemen; he committed it to Godric's care, who answered 7l. and no more; it was two miles long, and one broad, and paid 9d. gelt.

This town is privileged as ancient demesne, the tenants being excused from serving as jurors at the sessions, or assizes, or any where else out of the manor, and from toll in markets and fairs, upon renewing their

their writ every king's reign, and having it annually allowed by the sheriff of the county. It remained in the crown till Henry II. gave it to sir William de Montecaniso, or Munchensy, knt. who gave a hundred marks to have seisin of this manor in 1189; he married Joan, second daughter to William Marshal earl of Pembroke; and in 1222 had scutage of all his tenants that held by military service in Norfolk, Suffolk, &c. In 1241 he was at that famous battle of Xantoiné, against the French, in which by his valiant deportment he won great renown. In the 34th of Henry III. the king ratified to him all the liberties belonging to his lands, among which the tenants here were excused from the sheriff's turn, and from toll, and from serving upon any juries out of their manor; he had assize of bread and ale, and wine, with court-leet allowed him, and this further privilege, "that the king's bailiffs should not enter his bailiffwick of Winfarthing to take any distress, but the bailiff of that bailiffwick should do it:" he died in 1255, being then reputed one of the most noble, prudent, and wealthy men of all the realm, his inventory amounting to 2000 marks, a prodigious sum for that time.

William, his son and heir, had a park well stocked with deer in this parish. In 1259, in the 46th of Henry III. he was one of the barons then at difference with the king, upon which account he received notice, that in case he did not personally repair to the court to sign the agreement, (as divers of them did) he might send his seal for the better confirmation thereof; and in the 48th of the same king, having been one of the chief commanders on the part of the barons in that fatal battle of Lewes, where the king was made their prisoner, the next year, when they summoned a parliament in the king's name, he was one

of the chief of those barons that then sat therein; but not long after this, being taken at Kenilworth, in that notable surprise made by the forces of prince Edward, a little before the battle of Evesham, his lands were seized, and given to William de Valence, half brother to the king, and earl of Pembroke, who had married his sister, Joan, whereupon Dionisia, his mother, who was daughter and heiress of Nicholas de Anesty, undertook to bring him before the feast of St. Hillary, in the 51st year of that king, to stand to the judgment of the king's court, in pursuance of the decree, called *Dictum de Kenilworth*, but not being able to perform it within that time, by reason of his sickness, she promised to bring him upon that very day, when he had such fair respect shewn him for his sister's sake, that William de Valence, her husband, freely restored him his lands again; after which, in 1277, (5th of Edward I.) he had a full pardon for his rebellion, and all the liberties granted by Henry II. to his ancestors, confirmed at large, with this additional one, "that he might keep dogs to hunt the hare, fox, and wild cat, in his forests." In 1289 he went with the earl of Cornwall (then governor of the realm in the king's absence) into Wales, against Resap Griffyth, at that time in the castle of Droghda, (who had made great depredations in those parts) and as he, with divers others, endeavoured to demolish that castle, by undermining it, he was with them overwhelmed, and killed with the fall thereof; at whose death Dionisia, his mother, had custody of his daughter and heiress, named also Dionisia; and immediately after Hugh de Vere, a younger son of Robert earl of Oxford, who was then the king's servant, obtained licence, and married her in 1296; and in consideration of his great services in the French wars, had livery of her inheritance; Dionisia, her grandmother was then living, who being a devout woman, founded

founded Waterbeche nunnery, in Cambridgeſhire, in 1293; ſhe died in 1303, and her lands deſcended to Hugh de Vere, who had no iſſue by his wife Dionifiſa, ſo that her inheritance reverted to William de Valence, who had married Joan, ſiſter to the laſt William de Muncheſy, who after the death of the ſaid Hugh had view of frank-pledge, aſſize of bread and ale, and a tumbrell, or ducking-ſtool, allowed to this manor; and thus much of the ancient family of the Muncheſys.

William de Valence, earl of Pembroke, died ſeiſed in right of Joan, his wife; and Audomar, or Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, his heir, in 1321 held it by one fee of the barony of Muncheſy, and the manor, or tenement, called Heywood, of Robert Fitz-Walter, by the fourth part of a fee; he died in 1323, leaving no male iſſue, ſo that his ſiſters inherited, and this manor was allotted to Iſabel, who married John Haſtings, lord Abergavenny, by whom he had John de Haſtings, who ſucceeded him, and John was ſucceeded by his ſon, Laurence, who, as ſoon as he came of age, was declared earl of Pembroke, and the year following, being the 14th of Edward III. he attended the king in that great adventure againſt the French at ſea, where he worthily ſhared in the glory of that victory obtained againſt them, near Sluys, in Flanders; but this was not the only brave action of this earl; for he behaved himſelf valiantly all his life, as we find in Dugdale's Baronage, (p. 576) where his brave atchievements, and thoſe of his family, are amply treated of; he died in 1347, in the 21ſt of Edward III. leaving John Haſtings, earl of Pembroke, his ſon and heir, who being very active in the French wars, in 1371 was made lieutenant of Aquitain, at the ſpecial requeſt of the inhabitants of that province, and was then about 25
years

years old. but unlucky it was for him that he had that honor; for upon his coming to the port of Rochelle, which was then beleagured by the French, no sooner was he got into the haven but the Spanish fleet fell upon him, before he could put his men in order to fight, so that he was taken prisoner, his ships burned, and all the English killed or taken, with no less than 20,000 marks, sent over by the king to maintain the war: after he had undergone four years imprisonment, with most inhuman usage, for a sum of money he was to have been enlarged; upon which he came to Paris, where falling sick he hasted to Calais, but died on his journey. April 16, 1374, seized of these manors, which, among others, were assigned to Anne, his widow, for her dower; she died in 1383.

John de Hastings, their son, succeeded; this John at the coronation of Richard II. (being then not five years old) claimed to carry the great golden spurs, and shewing sufficient evidence of his right to do that service, Edmund earl of March (whose daughter, Philippa, he married) was allowed to perform it for him, by reason of his minority. He had no issue; for in the 13th of Richard II. being then but 17 years old, the king keeping his Christmas at Woodstock, and holding a tournament there, this young earl ventured to tilt with sir John St. John, by an unlucky slip of whose lance he was run into the bottom of the belly, upon which his bowels burst out, and he soon died, to the great grief of many, being a person of so noble a disposition, that for bounty, manhood, and courtesy, he exceeded all of his age, and most of his degree. His untimely death was at that time thought a judgment upon his family, in regard that Aymer de Valence, earl of Pembroke, his ancestor, was one of those that passed sentence of death upon

upon Thomas earl of Lancaster, at Pontefract; for it was observed, that after that judgment so given, none of the succeeding earls of Pembroke ever saw his father. At his death Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthyn, his cousin and heir of the whole blood, as descended lineally from Elizabeth, sister to John de Hastings, father of John, grandfather of this earl; but by some inquisitions Hugh de Hastings, great-grandson of the same John de Hastings, by Isabel, the daughter of Hugh le Despencer, his second wife, was found his heir male, but of the half blood, for which reason he did not inherit, though there was a great struggle for it, as there was for the arms of the Hastings, between Edward Hastings, great-grandfather to this Hugh, and Reginald lord Grey, of Ruthyn; it lasted little less than twenty years in the court, before the constable and marshal of England, and in the end the said Edward, though he was heir male, was not only condemned in 97*ol.* 17*s.* 10*d.* costs, (Grey swearing that he had spent 1000 marks more) but he was imprisoned sixteen years for disobeying that sentence, which was reputed a very hard and unjust one, and so Hastings thought it, for with extreme anguish of mind he died, leaving God's curse, and his own, upon his descendents, if they did not attempt the vindication of their right. But to return; Roger lord Grey, of Ruthyn, by the said Elizabeth Hastings, had Reginald lord Grey, whose son, Reginald, inherited, and from an extent in this manor it appears, that here was then a hall, or manor-house, with a park, well stocked with deer, all which were nothing worth above their outgoings and repairs; and another inclosure, called a park, fenced in with pales, containing above eighty acres of arable land, worth 2*d.* each acre; that there were eight acres of meadow, worth 8*d.* each acre; that the quit-rents were 1*ol.* besides 600 days work in winter, worth a halfpenny each day,

day, and 300 days work in autumn, worth 1d. each day, together with a wood, called Hulver-wood, the underwood of which was worth 12d. a year; there was also a chace upon Winfarthing-common, and Banham-green, worth 6d. a year; a wind-mill, worth 2s. a year; the suits and perquisites of the courts, worth 3s. 4d. a year clear. But though lord Grey inherited the rest of the earl of Pembroke's estate, this and Heywood manors were in dower, and held by Philippa, widow of the last earl, till 1400, in which year she died, having enjoyed it notwithstanding the claim of Edward Hastings; he married Margaret, daughter of sir William de Roos, by whom he had John, who married Constance, daughter of John Holland, duke of Exon, and relict of Thomas Mowbray, earl marshal; he died before his father, leaving two sons, Edmund, and Thomas, at his grandfather's death, which was in 1440. Edmund became heir to his honor and estate; he married Catherine, daughter to Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, and in the 5th of Edward IV. was created earl of Kent; at his death in 1488 he left these manors in dower to Catherine, his widow, who died about 1499, and then they went to George earl of Kent, their son, who by suffering a recovery settled it on Henry VII. for payment of a great debt, with a remainder to himself and his heirs: after this it was settled on Catherine, his second wife, who enjoyed it for her life, and then it went to Richard Grey, earl of Kent, who died in 1523. having greatly wasted his estate. This and Heywood were part of the jointure of Elizabeth, his wife; but in 1505, with her and her trustees consent, he sold them to Robert le Strange, and his heirs, and a fine was levied accordingly, viz. of 2800 acres of land, 30l. rent in Winfarthing, Difs, Shelfanger, Tivetshall, and Buckenham-castle, and thus it passed from that family,

mily. This Robert le Strange dying seised, left it to John le Strange, his executor, to sell, of whom it was purchased by Thomas duke of Norfolk; from which time it went with that family, till Thomas earl of Arundel and Surry sold this and Heywood about 1643 to sir John Marsham, of Cuckstone, in Kent, bart. who died seised in 1692, leaving it to his son, from whom it descended, and sir Robert Marsham, who by letters patent was created baron of Romney, in Kent, in 1720, obtained an act of parliament to sell this estate, and to settle another in Kent, already purchased, to the same uses; upon which it was vested in sir Thomas Deane, bart. and Edm. Probyn, serjeant at law, (afterwards judge) who in 1724 conveyed it to Humphry South, of London, merchant, to the use of Mrs. Elizabeth Gray, (only child of John Gray, late of the island of Barbadoes, esq.) who by virtue of that purchase was patroness and lady of both Winfarthing and Heywood, which is called Winfarthing Outfoken Manor. John Bristowe, esq. presented in 1749, and the earl of Albemarle in 1774.

In the time of queen Elizabeth there was a great suit for these manors between the earl of Surrey, who recovered, and the earl of Kent, at which time Heywood manor was 26l. and Winfarthing 14l. per ann. The leet belonged to the court baron, and the courts of the infoken and outfoken of this manor extended into Briffingham, Kenninghall, &c. Here were two parks, viz. the Old and New Park, and the rector had the herbage of both, for the composition of which 29s. 4d. was paid him; the rent of Hulverwood was 6d. To this manor belongs Banham-heath, a great part of which lies in Difs hundred, which is divided by the meer, called the Hundred Meer, which divides the hundreds of Difs, Shropham,

and Guiltcros, and the drift of it as far as that meet belongs to Winfarthing, and is in the bounds of that parish, and according to ancient custom the tenants of Winfarthing always drive their part the last day of April, and impound all waifs and strays in a ground called the Hall-yards, in Winfarthing Great Park, in which the manor-house did heretofore stand. In 1604 this park was full of deer, and sir Bassingbourne Gawdy, of West Harling, knt. had every year a fee doe and buck, and liberty of hunting them in that park, which was then lord Arundel's.

This parish hath lands belonging to it, now lett at 16l. per ann. of the gift of divers persons, out of which 2l. 11s. (called Lowndes' and Alden's gifts) is annually, at Easter, to be divided among such poor as are not collectioners, by the rector and churchwardens, the rest was given to repair the church: they have also three town-houses; one hath an acre of land adjoining to it, and another was the Old Guildhall, the lands of which guild were seized by the crown, and were given by queen Elizabeth in the 27th year of her reign to the Hallyats.

In 1603 there were 189 communicants; and in 1735 fifty dwelling-houses, and about 260 inhabitants. It paid 11. 16s. to the tenths, was valued at 1256l. to the parliament valuation, and now at 934l. to the land tax.

The customs of the manor are these; the eldest son is heir, the fine is at the lord's will, it gives no dower, the tenants build up, pull down, plant on the waste, and fell timber, without licence. The leet belongs to the hundred.

The customs of the rectory were first exemplified in the 45th of Elizabeth, and after that in the 8th of James I. June 7, and are these:—They pay 1d. a year for each cow in lieu of lactage. For every calf under seven, 1d. ob. the seventh being due in kind to the rector, he allowing 1d. ob. for each calf above seven, and under ten. Instead of tithe hay, or herbage, the parishioners pay 2d. an acre to the rector, except all tythe-hay growing on the common meadows, which is due in kind. They pay for every foal 1d. a year till it comes to work; and for every heifer 1d. a year till it is milked, or otherwise converted. Every inhabitant on All Saints Day pays 1d. ob. in lieu of all tythe for fruit, and all sewel spent in the town.

Tythe pease are due every tenth fletch, as soon as they are cut by the owner; all corn and other small and great tithes whatsoever are due in their proper kind, the small tythes on Lammas-day, the rest as they are separated.







T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
N O R F O L K.

Hundred of E A R S H A M.

THIS hundred, or rather half hundred, is wholly in the liberty of the duke of Norfolk, and joins to Difs hundred, on the west; Depwade, and Loddon, on the north; and by the river Waveney, (which divides Norfolk from Suffolk) on the south; the east end of it terminating upon the town of Bungay, in Suffolk, which island*, by the winding of the river northward, juts out, as it were, into Norfolk.

The fee of it is appendant to the manor of Earsham, and was first granted with it to Roger Bigot.

A

earl

* Bongeye, or the Good Island,

earl of Norfolk, by Richard I. Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, gave Richard I. 1000 marks to have seisin of his county of Norfolk, this town, and half hundred, with that of Pirnhoe, &c. and was confirmed to Hugh Bigot by Henry II. when he made him earl of Norfolk.

In 1285 Robert de Tateshale, lord of Buckenham-castle, sued Roger le Bigot, earl of Norfolk, and John Greencurtel, his *warrener* †, or game-keeper, for this half hundred, for taking away his dogs, and two hares, from the game-keeper of his manor of Denton, in the half hundred; upon which the earl set forth his liberties, and shewed, that in the Confessor's time bishop Stigand had the soc and sac of all the half hundred, except Thorpe, which belonged to St. Edmund's at Bury, the Pulhams to St. Etheldred of Ely, and such parts of Redenhall, and Denton, as belonged to earl Ralph, who had the soc, sac, and all jurisdiction of his own men, or tenants, there, when he forfeited; and when the grant of the hundred passed to his ancestors, they then had, as he now hath, free-warren through the whole hundred; and the leets, or superior jurisdiction, and paramountship, in his own, and all other persons fees, except those before mentioned; with view of frank-pledge, assize of bread and ale, a common gallows, infangthef, waif, and all other liberties belonging to a hundred*;
the

† Warrener, the keeper of the liberty of free-warren, or game-keeper of a manor; for the liberty of free-warren, or gaming, every where belonged to the crown, till granted thence by the several charters of free-warren.

* A hundred court, to be held at Harleston on the market day, every three weeks, &c. with the tolls of the market, and fairs, at Harleston, paying 3s. 4d. to the king, as to the castle of Norwich, felons goods, &c.

the whole, with Earsham manor, being valued at 30l. and held of the crown by a fee-farm of 40d. to which Robert answered, that he had free-warren also to his manor of Denton, and it appearing that it was that part which belonged to earl Ralph, it was agreed between the parties, at the instance of R. de Hingham, and his fellow justices itinerants, at Norwich, that both should have free-warren in Denton.

In 1352 the jury for the hundred presented, that the inhabitants of Bungay used, time out of mind, to repair the bridges between Bungay, in Suffolk, and Ditchingham, and Earsham, in Norfolk.

In 1374 the whole perquisites received this year from the hundred, and accounted for to the head manor of Fornet, was 46l. 15s. 5d. 3q. and in 1537 much the same as before.

This was often written anciently Erlesham, and was thought to take its name from the earls of Norfolk, the lords of it; but it is not so, for it was called by this name long before it belonged to the earls: Herfam, as spelt in Doomsday, seems to signify the station of the army, and accordingly there is an encampment by the church; this hundred (with that of Difs) makes up the deanry of Redenhall, in the archdeaconry of Norwich, and paid clear to every tenth 49l. 18s. 4d.

The towns in this hundred are as follow, to which is added the number of votes polled by freeholders resident in each, for knights of the shire, at the general election, March 23, 1768, sir Armine Wodehouse, bart. Thomas de Grey, esq. sir Edward Astley, and Wenman Coke, esq. being candidates.

			W.	de G.	A.	C.
Aldburgh	-	-	6	6	6	6
Billingsford	-	-	1	0	1	0
Brocdish	-	-	3	2	7	6
Denton	-	-	0	0	6	6
Earsham	-	-	8	8	0	0
Mendham	-	-	5	4	3	1
Needham	-	-	1	1	3	3
Pulham St. Mary Mag.	}		24	25	5	3
——— St. Mary Virgin						
Redenhall <i>cum</i> Harleston			12	7	34	28
Rushall	-	-	1	1	2	2
Starston	-	-	6	5	5	4
Thorpe-Abbots	-	-	0	0	1	1
Wortwell	-	-	3	2	8	7
			70	61	81	67

This hundred is about eleven miles in extent, from opposite Bungay to Billingsford, and not more than four in width. It is chiefly inclosed, and as good fertile soil as any in Norfolk. It pays 2303l. 19s. to the land tax, at 4s. in the pound, and 19l. 19s. 6d. to the general rate of the county, at a six-hundred pound levy.

The principal seat in this hundred is Earsham, William Windham, esq.—The Rev. Dr. George Sandby has a seat at Denton; John Kerrich, esq. at Harleston; and William Smith, Esq. at Topcroft-hall, in Denton.

ALDBURGH, ALDEBURGH, or ALDBERGH, in Doomsday-book *Aldeberga*, commonly called *ARBO-ROUGH*;

ROUGH* ; its name signifies the old Burgh ; it is often written in evidences Akenberwe, or the Burgh of Oaks.

There are three manors ; the superior manor and jurisdiction, with the leet and advowson, belonged to bishop Stigand, afterwards to Ralph earl of Norfolk, who forfeited it, by his rebellion, to the Conqueror, and he assigned it to the care of William de Noiers. The town was then a mile long, and five furlongs broad, and paid 10d. to the geld. It was afterwards granted to the Bigots, earls of Norfolk, with Earsham, and hath passed always with it to this day, his grace Charles duke of Norfolk being now lord.

The second manor is HOLEBROOK, or ALBURGH-HALL, which was in two parts ; Alfric held one as a berewick to Tibenham, in the Confessor's time, and Morvan after him ; a free-man of St. Audrey, of Ely, held the other, which Herfrind had afterwards, and his successor, Eudo, had the whole of the Conqueror's gift. It came afterwards to Nicholas de Lenham, who occurs lord in 1256 ; and in 1274 was purchased of John Dagworth, and others, by John de Holebrook, who added lands to it, by purchase, from William de Alburgh. In 1342 John de St. Maur, or Seymore, (lord of Semere's manor, which extended into this town) was lord ; and in 1350 sir William Seymour, knt. conveyed it to sir John Wingfield, knt. and his heirs ; soon after they all joined and sold it to Gilbert de Debenham, esq. who was in possession

B

* Mr. Fuller, among other county proverbs, hath this, (such as it is :)
 " Denton in the dale, and Arborough in the dirt,

" And if you go to Homersfield, your purse will get the squirt."

Homersfield lies in Suffolk, just by, and is a small village, abounding with alehouses.

feſſion in 1360, when it was worth ten marks a year, and was held of Earſham hundred. It continued in the Debenhams a long time, though in 1456 Hammond le Strange had an intereſt in it.

Mr. Rice, in his ſurvey, ſays, that the manor-houſe, or hall, was down in 1480, and that it belonged to the heirs general of the Brewſes, two ladies; one married to ſir Edward Themilthorpe, knt.

The demefnes and quit-rents were 30l. per ann. the fines were at will, and there were about twenty tenants.

The third is the RECTORY MANOR, which hath about 40s. per ann. rents, and the copyholds are at the will of the lord.

There was alſo a ſmall part belonging to the honour of Richmond, but that belonged to Redenhall manor.

The church is dedicated to All Saints, was firſt valued at twelve marks, and after that at ſeventeen. The rector had a houſe, and forty acres of land, when Norwich Dooſday-book was made; now reduced, by the rector's granting them to be held as copyhold of their rectory manor, to about eight acres.

The town paid 5l. clear to each tenth; it pays firſt fruits and tenths, and is not capable of augmentation, ſtanding thus in the king's books:—12l. Albergh rectory.—1l. 4s. yearly tenths.

The abbot of Langley's temporals in this town were taxed at 6d. the prior of Mendham's at 5s.
1d. ob.

1d. ob. the prior of Weybrige's at 2s. 5d. so that the religious were little concerned here.

The presentation was chiefly in the dukes of Norfolk, as appears from the institution books, from 1503 to 1699.

Richard Whetley, the rector here, was deprived by queen Mary, among others of the clergy, whose sole offence in those days was matrimony. In 1603 the rector returned 156 communicants in his parish.

Blomefield says, that in 1729 the Rev. Mr. Fairfax Stillingfleet, A. M. late fellow of St. John's College, in Cambridge, was presented by sir Rowland Hill, of Hawkston, in Shropshire, bart. to this rectory, it being one of the livings purchased of the duke of Norfolk, to which the family must always present a fellow of St. John's, college, Cambridge; and the bishop's register has, 1754, the Rev. William Cole presented by St. John's college, Cambridge.

The tower is square, had originally three, but now there are six bells; the chancel is thatched, the church and south porch leaded; the north vestry is down.

On marbles in the chancel,—*Thomas Green, generosus de Pulham Sta. Maria cælebs, mortuus est quarto die Mart. anno Xti. MDCCVI. Æt. LXIX.*—with his arms.

Mr. Richard Cooper, June 16, 1669, 86. Anne, his wife, Oct. 26, 1669, 65.

Over the north door remains a painting of St. Christopher, as usual, very large; and there was an image of our Lady in the chancel; a chapel, dedicated to St. Laurence, in the church, and an image of St. Catherine, by which the Wrights (a very ancient family in this parish, are interred, and were benefactors towards building the porch, in 1463

On a grave-post in the south side of the churchyard a latin epitaph to Robert Bayes, clerk, *obijt* December 8, 1702, *ætat.* 78.—Also, to Samuel Bayes, esq. *obijt* Aug. 24, 1689, *ætat.* 29.

An altar-tomb at the west end of the steeple, for—*Robert Jay, gent. Jan. 12, 1723, aged 84; and two of his wives, and fourteen children.*

A grave-post for—*John Hambling, March 29th, 1712, aged 63.*

*Friend! I am gone, and you must follow,
Perhaps to-day, perhaps to-morrow,
Your time is short, improve it well,
Prepare for heaven, and think on hell.*

Here is an estate belonging to the boys hospital in Norwich, town houses, and two commons, containing about 100 acres, on which Wortwell and Alburgh intercommon. Here is also an estate of 57l. per ann. given by Richard Wright, of this parish, appropriated to the church and poor, by a decree in Chancery made in the 14th of James I.

The description of the penance of Thomas Pye, and John Mendham, in 1428, may be read in Master Fox's Acts and Monuments, at fo. 663.*

* Blomefield.

BILLINGFORD. The original name of this place is Preleston, or the "Town of the Battle," in all probability so called from some remarkable battle fought here, when the Romans possessed the land; and by this name only it is mentioned in Doomsday-book. Its present name first occurred in the time of Henry III. when the inhabitants began to fix themselves by the ford, or pass over the river into Suffolk: for Billingford signifies the dwelling at the ford by the low meadow; and such is the situation of this village at present.

Stigand the bishop was superior lord here at the Confessor's time, and Roger de Ramis at the conquest. One part of the town formerly belonged to the abbot of Bury, and another to the abbot of Ely; all which Warenger held under the said Roger, and retained the superior jurisdiction to himself, in those lands which formerly belonged to Bury; the one part was given to Bury along with Thorpe, and the other to Ely, with Pulham, to which manors they then belonged.

Soon after they were divided, and one moiety continued in Roger's family till 1249, and then Richer de Reymes sold it to Roger de Herdebarow, or Herleburgh, who by this purchase became lord of the whole; for the other moiety went to the Bigots, and in 1211 was sold by William Bigot to Hugh de Herleburgh: the whole was held always of Forncet manor at one fee, and 2d. ob. per ann. castle-ward: his two daughters and co-heiresses afterwards inherited it; but in 1285 Roger Bigot claimed liberty of free-warren, as superior lord of the fee; and after this it was divided again into moieties. Ela, one of Herleburgh's heiresses, married Walter de Hopton, and presented here in 1300; and John de Peyto married the

the other; whose son, by the name of John de Petto, jun. presented in 1337; but in 1338 they joined and sold the whole to sir Walter de Hopton, knt.

In 1360 John de Clinton was lord for life, jointly with sir Walter de Hopton; and in 1375 Agnes, relict of John Brown, and Richard Brown, clerk, their son, sold it to sir Simon Burley, knight banneret, the great favourite of Edward the Black Prince, and tutor to Richard, his son, afterwards Richard II. who advanced him to many honors, and places of trust and profit*, he being knight of the garter, one of his privy-council, chamberlain of the household, governor of Windfor castle, constable of Dover castle, and lord warden of the Cinque-ports. In 1378 he obtained a grant from the king of the castle and lordship of Llan Stephan, in Pembroke-shire; and in 1382 another, to be master of the king's falcons and game kept at Charing, with the manor of Barrock, by Gravesend, and many other lands, &c. in consideration of his great services done to him from his infancy, before he was made a knight, and at that time, and after, when prince of Wales, and since, when king of England; but being so great in his master's favor, it raised him to such an intolerable degree of pride, and its consequence, oppression, that he incurred the displeasure of the whole nation, and being attainted in Parliament, was beheaded on Tower-hill in 1388. This manor was not forfeited thereby; for in 1375 sir Simon conveyed it after his decease to sir John Burley, his brother, and he settled it (or rather a moiety of it) on sir John Hopton, of Shropshire,

* He could dispense but twenty marks a year of his own inheritance, but by his Prince's favor attained to 3000 marks of yearly revenue; he gave sometimes 220 liveries in a year of scarlet, &c.

Shropshire, knt. who married Isabel Burley, his daughter, and their heirs.

The other moiety, afterwards called CORBET'S MANOR, belonged to sir Nicholas Dagworth, knt. and in 1401 to Thomas Young, esq. of Sibton, and after to John Corbet, esq. in whom the whole united again. In 1460 John Corbet, esq. was found his heir, in right of his wife, Catherine, only daughter and heiress of Walter Hopton, and it continued in the Corbets a long time.

Roger Corbet, esq. died lord in 1539, leaving Andrew his son and heir, who sold it in 1544 to sir Robert Southwell, of whom it was purchased by Christopher Grice, gent. who died in 1558, and was buried in this church, leaving Robert his son and heir, who dying in 1601, lies buried here, leaving only one daughter, Frances le Grice, who married sir William Platers, of Sotterley, knight and baronet, deputy lieutenant and vice admiral of the county of Suffolk, and member in Parliament; they left sir Thomas Platers, bart. their only son and heir, who was high-sheriff of Suffolk, and a colonel of a regiment of horse to Charles I. and afterwards had a command at sea under the king of Spain: he married Rebecca, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Chapman, of Wormley, in Hertfordshire, and died at Messina, in Sicily, in 1651, without legitimate issue, but settled this manor and estate on Elizabeth, his natural daughter, who married sir Edward Chisenhall, knt. of an ancient family in Lancashire, and had issue William Chisenhall, of whom it was purchased by the Carters, and in 1704 Edward Carter, senior, was lord and patron; and afterwards by the Holts, and Rowland Holt, esq. of Redgrave, in Suffolk; is now lord and patron.

The

The rectory of Billingsford is gl. and the clear yearly value 45l. This rectory being discharged, pays neither first-fruits nor tenths, and is capable of augmentation.

When Nørwich doomfday-book was made the rector had a house and ten acres of land; the house stood near the summer-house at the hall, and was long since burned down, and never rebuilt. The terrier hath thirty-seven pieces of glebe; it is in the liberty of the duke of Norfolk, who in right of his hundred of Earsham is lord paramount here.

There was a family surnamed of the town: In 1260 Matthew of Preleston, and in 1316 John of Prillelton lived here.

The church is dedicated to St. Leonard; the nave and south porch are tiled, and the chancel is thatched; there was a large square tower, which is fallen down, so that it is no higher than the church, is covered in, and hath one bell in it.

On a brass plate—*Here lyeth buried the corps of Christopher le Grys, esq; some time lord and patron of this church, only child to Robert le Grys, esq. and Susan, his wife, daughter and co-heire to Thomas Ayre, of Bury, in Suffolk, esq. lineally descended from sir Robert le Grys, of Langley, in Norfolk, knt. one of the equerries to king Richard the 1st. he married Margaret, daughter and heir to Thomas Whipple, of Dickleborough, in Norfolk, gent. and Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and co-heire to John Garningham, of Belton, in Suffolk, esq. and had issue by her only Frances, who married with sir William Playters, of Satterley, in Suffolk, knt. and bart. He ended this life the 19th of October, A°. 1601, and in the*

23d year of his age. RESURGAM.—With the arms of le Grice, Whipple, and Jernegan.

On another brass,—*Here lyeth buried the corps of Christopher le Grice, esq. some time lord and patron of this church, sonn to William le Grys, of Brocdissh, and Sybell, his wife, daughter and heire to Edmund Syngleton, esq. he married Ann, eldest daughter to Robert Howard, of Brocdissh, gent. by whom he had three sonns and two daughters: he died Jan. 19, 1558.—Grice impales quarterly, Singleton and Howard, of Brockdissh.*

Here lyeth buried the Corps of Charles le Grys, gent. the only sonne of Henry le Grys, and Ann, his wife, daughter to Anthony Yaxley, of Yaxley, in Suffolk, esq. he died Sept. 4, 1634.

In the chancel windows are the arms of De-la-Pole, Hastings, and Valence, of Anthony Grys, with three martlets on the top, and of Henry Grys, with a crescent; and on a tree hangs a shield with the arms of Brewse on it.

The font hath the arms of St. Edmund, St. George, and a chev. and chief in one shield, all carved in stone.

In 1267 there was a vicar here; after this the vicarage was re-united to the rectory, and so it continued a rectory ever since.

William de Easthawe, rector, was buried in the chancel in 1385, and made the lattices between the church and chancel.

The rector returned eighty communicants here in 1603.

June 12, 1739, the church of Billingford, *alias* Pryleston, was consolidated with Thorpe parva, and in 1772, the Rev. John Malyn was presented to the rectory by Rowland Holt, esq. knight of the shire for the county of Suffolk.

There were formerly many arms of the Grices, with their impalements and quarterings, both in the hall and church windows, but are now some of them removed, and the rest so broken and defaced, that there is no depending on them for the exactness of the several coats.

Billingford is the most southerly town in Norfolk, and the coach-road between Yarmouth and London passes by it.

BROCKDISH, or BROOKDISH, is the next adjoining town to Thorpe-Abbots, eastward, through which the great road passes to Yarmouth; on the left hand of which stands the church on a hill by itself, there being no house near it but the parsonage, which joins to the east side of the church-yard. The advowson always belonged to the Earl's manor here, with which it now continues.

In Norwich Doomsday-book we read, that the rector had a house, and thirty acres of land, and it was then valued at fifteen marks. It stands in the king's book thus, "10l. Brokedish rectory, 1l. yearly tenths," and consequently pays first fruits, and is incapable of augmentation. The church stands included in the glebe, which is much the same in quantity as it was when the aforesaid survey was taken. It is in the Duke of Norfolk's liberty, though he hath no leet, warren, paramountship, or superior jurisdiction

jurisdiction at all in this town, the whole being sold by the family along with the manors of the town.

In 1603 there were 103 communicants here, and now (Blomefield) here are 50 families, and about 300 inhabitants.

The prior of St. Faith at Horsham owned lands here, which were taxed at 2s. 6d. in 1428.

The prior of Thetford monks had lands here of the gift of Richard de Cadomo, or Caam, who gave them his land, &c. in Brockdish, which from those monks is now called Monks-hall Manor, and the water-mill there. In the time of Richard II. the monks bought a piece of marsh ground to make a way to their mill, which not being contained in the grant of Monks-hall Manor from Henry VIII. to the duke of Norfolk, William le Grice, esq. and Charles Newcommon, who had a grant of such lands as they could find *concealed* from the crown, seized on this as such; and upon their so doing, the owner of the mill was obliged to purchase it of them by the name of Thetford-Mill-Way, and it hath ever since belonged to, and is constantly repaired by the owner thereof.

In 1356 Mary countess Marshall, widow of Thomas de Brotherton, who had recovered the advowson by the king's writ against sir J. Wingfield, knt. and Thomas, his brother, William de Lampet, and Alice, his wife, and Catherine, her sister, presented; and it remained in the Norfolk family till 1561.

In 1739 the late Rev. and learned Francis Blomefield was presented rector by Mrs. Ellen Laurence, of Castle-Acre, widow: He published three volumes

of *An ESSAY towards an History of Norfolk*, which was continued in two volumes more by the Rev. Mr. Parkin.

In 1766 the Rev. Lawrence Gibbs was presented to this rectory by Samuel Gibbs. *p. j.*

The church is dedicated to the honor of the Apostles Sts. Peter and Paul, and hath a square tower about sixteen yards high, part of which was re-built with brick in 1714; there are five bells, the third is said to have been brought from Pulham in exchange. The nave, chancel, and south aisle are leaded, the south porch is tiled, and the north porch is in ruins. The roof of this chancel is remarkable for its principals, which are whole trees without any joint from side to side, and bent in such a rising manner as to be agreeable to the roof. The chancel is thirty feet long, and twenty broad; the nave is fifty-four feet long, and thirty-two broad, and the south aisle is of the same length, and ten feet broad.

At the west end of the nave is a black marble inscribed to Richard Wythe, gent. who died Sept. 6, 1671, aged 64 years, 4 months, and nine days.

This family had resided here ever since the time of Edward III. till lately, and had a considerable estate here, and in the adjacent villages.

Another marble, near the desk, to John Moulton, gent. who died June 12, 1718, aged 38 years; and to his two wives who died before him.

In a north window are the arms of De-la-Pole, quartering Wingfield.

In

In 1469 John Wurliche, of Brockdish, was interred in the nave, and left a legacy to pave the bottom of the steeple.

In 1518 Henry Bokenham, of Brockdish, was buried in the church, as were many of the Spaldings*, Wythes, Howards, Grices, Tendrings, and Laurences, who were all considerable owners, and families of distinction in this town.

The chapel at the east end of the south aisle was built by sir Ralph Tendring, of Brockdish, knt. whose arms remain in the east window to this day.

His altar monument stands against the east wall, north and south, and hath a sort of cupola over it, with a holy water stope by it, and a pedestal for the image of the saint to whom it was dedicated to stand on, so that it served both for a tomb and an altar; the brass plates of arms and circumscription are lost.

On the north side, between the chapel and nave, stands another altar tomb, covered with a most curious marble, disrobed of many brass plates of arms and its circumscription, as are several other stones in the nave, aisle, and chancel. This is the tomb of John Tendring, esq. of Brockdish-hall, who
C 3 lived

* This family was originally of Spalding, in Lincolnshire. In the house belonging to the family was a picture of Samuel Spalding, town clerk of Cambridge, in his alderman's gown, with a book in his hand, anno 1664, ætat. 74. Another of his wife, anno 1664, ætat. 63, with her arms; another of Frances, their daughter, in her winding-sheet:---this child being young, went into a garret in a remote part of the house, and the door shutting upon it, it was there starved to death, notwithstanding strict enquiry had been made after it. This Samuel was father of Samuel, father of Daniel Spalding, gent. deceased.

lived there, and died in 1436, leaving five daughters, his heiresses, so that he was the last male of this branch of the Tendrings.

On the east chancel wall on the south side of the altar is a white marble monument, with a latin inscription to the Rev. Robert Lawrence, rector and patron here, who died Dec. 31, 1739 aged 25,—with the arms of Lawrence, Aflack, Lany, Cooke, Bohun, Bardolph, Ramfey.

On a flat stone under this monument is a brass plate inscribed to Robert Lawrence, esq. ob. July 28, 1637; the arms on a brass plate are, Lawrence impaling Lany, and his quarterings, viz. Aflack, Cooke, Bohun, Delis, Burdolph, Charles, Ramfey, Tendring, Wachefam, &c.

There is a picture of this Robert Lawrence, esq. drawn in 1629, aged 36. He built the hall in 1634; it stands near half a mile north-east of the church, and was placed near the old scite of Brockdish-hall, the seat of the Tendrings, whose arms, taken out of the old hall when this was built, were fixed in the windows. The arms of this man, and his wife, and several of their quarterings, are carved on the wainscot in the rooms.

On the south side of the church-yard is an altar tomb, covered with a black marble, with the crest and arms of Sayer, or Sawyer, to the memory of Frances, late wife of Richard Tubby, esq. who died December 22, 1728.

Adjoining is another altar tomb——*In memory of Richard Tubby, esq. who died December 10, 1741, in the 80th year of his age.*

He

He was high sheriff of Norfolk in 1729, and his wife was niece and co-heiress to Thomas Tennison, archbishop of Canterbury, who died December 14, 1715, and was buried at Lambeth.

The town takes its name from its situation on the Waveney, or Wagheneye, which divides this county from that of Suffolk, the channel of which is now deep and broad, though nothing to what it was at that time, as is evident from the names of places upon this river, as the opposite *Ville*, now called Sileham, (oftentimes wrote Sayl-holm, even to the time of Edward III.) shews; "for," says Mr. Blomefield, "I make no doubt but it was *then* navigable for large boats and barges to *sail* up hither, and continued so till the sea, by retiring at Yarmouth, and its course being stopt near Lowestoft, had not that influence on the river so far up as it had before, which occasioned the water to retire, and leave much land dry on either side of the channel; tho' it is so good a stream, that it might with ease, even *now*, be made navigable hither, and it would be a good work, and very advantageous to all the adjacent country." That *brod-dic* signifies no more than the broad-ditch is very plain, and that the termination of *o, eau*, or water, added to it, makes it "the broad ditch of water" is as evident.

Before the Confessor's time this town was in two parts, bishop Stigand owned one, and the abbot of Bury the other; the former afterwards was called the Earl's manor, from the earls of Norfolk; and the other Brockdish-hall, from its ancient lords, who were surnamed from the town.

The superior jurisdiction, leet, and all royalties, belonged to the earl's manor, which was always held

of the hundred of Earsham, except that part of it which belonged to Bury abbey, and that belonged to the lords of Brockdish-hall; but when the earl's manor was sold by the duke of Norfolk, with all royalties of gaming, fishing, &c. together with the leets, view of frank-pledge, &c. free and exempt from his hundred of Earsham, and the two manors became joined as they now are, the whole centred in the lord of the town, who hath now the sole jurisdiction, with the leet, belonging to it; and the whole parish being freehold, on every death, or alienation, the new tenant pays a relief of a year's freehold rent, added to the current year; the annual free-rent, without such reliefs, amounting to above 3l. per ann.

At the Conqueror's survey the town was seven furlongs long, five furlongs and four perches broad, and paid 6d. to the gelt, or tax.

At the Confessor's survey there were lands, &c. held of bishop Stigand, and others held under the abbot of Bury, who held the whole of Stigand.

There were two soc-men, with land, &c. here, which were given to Bury abbey along with the adjacent manor of Thorpe-Abbots, but were after severed from that manor, and infeoffed by the abbot of Bury in the lord of Brockdish-hall manor, with which it passed ever after.

BROCKDISH-EARL'S MANOR, or Brockdish *Comitis*. This manor always attended the manor of Forncet after it was granted from the crown to the Bigots, along with the half-hundred of Earsham. It was mostly part of the dower of the ladies of the several noble families that it passed through, and the living was generally given to their domestic chaplains.

In

In the 3d of Edward I. the abbot of Bury tried an action with Roger Bigot, then lord and patron for the patronage, pleading that a part of the town belonged to his house, and though they infeofed their manor here in the family of the Brockdish's, yet the right in the advowson remained in him; but it appearing that the advowson never belonged to the abbot's manor before the seoffment was made, but that it wholly was appendant ever since the Confessor's time to the earl's manor, the abbot was cast: notwithstanding which, in 1335, sir John Wingfield, knt. &c. owners of Brockdish's manor, revived the claim to the advowson, presented here, and put up their arms in the church windows, as patrons, which still remain; but Mary countess Marshall, who then held this manor in dower, brought her *quare impedit*, and ejected their clerk; since which time it constantly attended this manor, being always appendant thereto.

In the 15th of Edward I. Roger Bigot, then lord, had free-warren in all this town, as belonging to this manor, having not only all the royalties of the town, but also the assize of bread and ale, and amerciaments of all the tenants of his own manor, and the tenants of Reginald de Brockdish, who were all obliged to do suit once a year at the earl's view of frankpledge, and leet, in Brockdish. It continued in the Norfolk family till 1570, and then Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk, obtained licence from queen Elizabeth to sell it, it being held in *capite*, or in *chief*, of the crown, as part of the barony and honor of the said duke, who accordingly sold the manor, advowson, free-fishery, and all the place, or manor-house, and demesne lands, together with the leet, &c. and all other royalties whatsoever, free and exempt from any jurisdiction, or payment, to his half-hundred of Earsham, to Charles le Grice, of Brockdish, esq.
and

and his heirs, who was descended from sir Robert le Grys, of Langley, in Norfolk, knight, equerry to Richard I. This Charles re-built the house called the Place in 1567, and fixed his own and wife's arms and quarterings in the windows there. He married two wives, from whom descended the numerous branches of the Grices, of Brockdish, Norwich, Wakefield, in Yorkshire, &c. He was buried in this church April 12, 1575, and held his manor of the hundred of Earsham, in free soccage, without any rent or service. and not in *capite*; and Brockdish-hall manor of the king, as of his barony of Bury St. Edmund, in Suffolk, which lately belonged to the abbey there, in free-soccage, without any rent or service, and not in *capite*, and William le Grice was his eldest son and heir, who was possessed of the whole estate; for in 1585 William Howard, then lord of Brockdish-hall manor, agreed and sold it to this William, and Henry le Grice, his brother, and their heirs; but Howard dying the next year, the purchase was not compleated till 1598, when Edward Coppel-dick, gent. and other trustees, brought a writ of entry against John, son of the said William Howard, gent. and had it settled absolutely in the Grices, from which time the two manors have continued joined, as they are at this day: he left Francis le Grice, esq. his son and heir, who sold the whole estate, manors, and advowson, to Robert Laurence, of Brockdish, esq.* and the heirs of the family of Laurence enjoy the estate to this day.

BROCKDISH-HALL MANOR belonged to Bury abbey as aforesaid till the time of Henry I. and then the

* Oliver Laurence created banneret by the duke of Somerset before Roxborough, in Scotland, in 1547, was of this family, which was originally of Buckinghamshire.

the abbot infeoffed sir Stephen de Brockdish in it, from whom it took its present name; he was to hold it at the 4th part of a knight's fee of that abbey; it contained a capital messuage, or manor-house, called now Brockdish-hall, 105 acres of land in demesne, twelve acres of wood, eight of meadow, and 4l. 13s. 10d. rents of assize.

Sir Stephen de Brockdish, knt. was capital bailiff of all the earl of Norfolk's manors in this county, and was lord of this manor about 1329.

Reginald de Brockdish* left two daughters and heiresses, and not long after the whole was united, and belonged to sir William Tendring, of Stokeney-land, knt. and sir Ralph Tendring, of Brockdish, knt. built the old hall (which was pulled down by Robert Lawrence, esq. when he erected the present house) and the south aisle chapel, in which he and several of his family are interred.

John Tendring, of Brockdish, esq. his son, left five daughters, co-heiresses, who joined and levied a fine, and sold it to Thomas Fastolf, esq. and his heirs; and the year following they conveyed all their lands, &c. in Wiggshall, Tilney, and Ilington, to sir John Howard, knt. and his heirs, and vested them in his trustees, who the year following purchased the manor of Fastolf to himself and heirs; this sir John left Brockdish to a younger son, Robert Howard, esq. who settled here.

William

* The family of this name were very numerous, and many collateral branches continued a long time in this county; sir John Brockdish, priest of Mendlesham, in Suffolk, was one of the *Marian* persecutors, mentioned by Mr. Fox, vol. II. fol. 1913.

William Howard, who died in 1566, sold this manor the year before his death to the Grices afore-said; but upon the sale he reserved all other his estate in Brockdish, in which he dwelt, called Howard's Place, situate on the south side of the entrance of Brockdish-street, which house and farm was lately in Mr. Bucknall Howard, of London.

The scite and demesnes of the earl's manor, now called the Place, was sold from the manor by the Grices some time since, and after belonged to sir Isaac Pennington, alderman of London, and one of those who sat in judgment on Charles I. for which his estate was forfeited at the restoration, and was given by Charles II. to the duke of Grafton, and his grace the present duke of Grafton now owns it.

Benefactions to this parish are, amongst others, one close, called Algorshedge*, containing three acres, and a grove and dove-house formerly built thereon, containing about one acre, at the east end thereof; the whole abutting on the king's highway north, and the glebe of Brockdish rectory west: and one tenement abutting on Brockdish-street, south, called Seriches, with a yard on the north side thereof, were given by John Bacon, the younger, of Brockdish; the clear profits to go yearly to pay the tenths and fifteenths for the parish of Brockdish, when laid, and when they are not laid, to repair and adorn the parish church there for ever. His will was proved in 1433. There are always to be twelve feoffees of such as dwell, or are owners in the parish, and when the majority [of them are dead, the survivors are to fill up the vacancies. This tenement, with a town-clock fixed therein, was rebuilt in 1583, in the
time

* It pays a free rent of 4d. ob.

time of Richard Gibson, rector, who contributed thereto, with many of his parishioners.

John Sherwood, late of Brockdish, deceased, purchased and left in 1572 an annuity, or clear yearly rent charge of 6s. 8d. issuing out of six acres of land and pasture in Hoxne, in a close, called Calston's-close, to the only use and behoof of the poor of Brockdish, to be paid on the 1st of Nov. in Hoxne church porch, between twelve and four in the afternoon of the same day, with power to distrain and enter immediately for non-payment; the said six acres are warranted to be freehold, and clear of all incumbrances, except another rent-charge of 13s. 4d. granted to Hoxne poor, to be paid at the same day and place.

In 1592 John Howard, of Brockdish, sold to the inhabitants there a cottage, called Laune's, lying between the glebes on all parts; this hath been dilapidated many years, but the scite still belongs to the parish.

In the reign of queen Mary we find, by the old town-book, that several sums were paid for church utensils, &c. then used; but in 1558, as soon as queen Elizabeth ascended the throne, all these *papist* images, &c. were removed out of the church.

In 1657 seventeen shillings was laid out for the repair of the Brockdish part of Sileham-bridge, leading over the river to Sileham church. This bridge is now down, through the negligence of both the parishes, though it was of equal service to both, and half of it to be repaired by each of them.

In

In 1618 the church was wholly new paved and repaired; and in 1619 the pulpit and desk new made, new books, pulpit-cloth, altar-cloth, &c. bought.

DENTON takes its name from the Saxon word *den*, a cave, or hollow place*, between two hills, which exactly answers to its situation. The present church stands on a high hill, and the parsonage house on the north side of the church-yard, in the very den, or hollow, from which the village is named. The superior jurisdiction over divers free-men of this town, from the time of the conquest to this day, hath passed with the hundred of Earsham; but the chief manor of Denton was held of bishop Stigand by Alfriz, in the Confessor's time, and by Eudo, son of Spiruwin, at the Conqueror's survey, when it was worth 4l. per ann. the town being then a mile long, and four furlongs broad, and paid 18d. gelt. This came to William de Albany, who joined it to Buckenham-castle, with which it passed many ages. Another part, which formerly belonged to Bury abbey, was held by Tarmoht, and after by the said Eudo: this constituted that manor called Payone's, in Denton.

DENTON *cum* TOPCROFT MANOR passed with the Albanys, and at the division of the estate of that family, among female heiresses, was allotted, among others, to sir Robert de Tatehale, knt. in whose family it continued till the failure of issue male.

In 1227 Henry III. granted to sir Robert de Tatehale, knt. a charter for free-warren here, which was confirmed to Constantine Clifton, his heir; and in

1285

* Thus, *den*, and *strand*, in the old law terms, signifies liberty for a ship to run a-ground, or come a-shore, which they usually did in such places for their safety.

1285 Roger Bigot, as lord of the hundred, had joint free-warren with him. It went from the Tatehales through the Bernaks, Orrebys, &c. to the Cliftons, and continued in that family, with Buckenham-castle, till 1447, and then sir John Clifton, knt. gave this manor to Robert Clifton, his cousin, and his heirs, who conveyed the united manors of Denton *cum* Topcroft†, the manors of Hoes, and Littlehall, in Denton, with the advowson of the church, to sir Gilbert Debenham, knt. and the advowson of St Giles's chapel, in Topcroft, the manors then extending into Denton, Topcroft, Aldburgh, Bedingham, Woodton, Hemenhale, Haddiscoe-Thorpe, and Dickleburgh.

Sir Thomas Brewse, of Salle, in Eynsford hundred, and of Wenham, in Suffolk, in right of Elizabeth, his second wife, sister and heiress to sir Gilbert Debenham, inherited this estate, from whom it descended to Robert Brewse, esq. of Topcroft-hall, his second son.

John Brewse in 1602 was lord; he was afterwards knighted, and married Cecily, only daughter of John Wilton, of Topcroft, gent. and soon after the Wiltons were lords. It passed with the Wiltons till Nicholas Wilton, esq. sold it in 1680 to George Smyth, doctor of physic, second son of John Smyth, esq. of North Nibley, high-sheriff of Gloucestershire, descended from the Smyths of Elkington, in Lincolnshire, who flourished in the time of Henry VI. and were returned among the gentlemen of that county; and from thence, about 1527, settled at Nibley,

† In 1464 Robert and Elizabeth Clifton lived in the principal manor-house, called Topcroft-hall, and had free hunting, hawking, fishing, and fowling, *for their lives*, in the united manors of Denton *cum* Topcroft, Hoes, and Littlehall, in Topcroft.

Nibley, where the elder branch have resided to this day, from father to son. This George took his master of arts degree at Oxford, May 21, 1661, and afterwards travelled beyond sea twenty-five years; and on the 24th of December, 1688, was admitted doctor of Physic at Padua, as a fine diploma now in the family testifies; in which he is called *Nobilis Anglus*; he married Mary, daughter and heiress of David Offley, of Cheshire, esq. by whom he had one son, Offley; his second wife was Ann*, daughter of William Chilcot, of Isleworth, in Middlesex, esq. who survived him, but had no issue; he is buried in Topcroft chancel, with the arms of Smyth between those of Offley and Chilcot on the stone; *obijt* Aug. 15, 1700.

Offley, his son, inherited at his death, who was likewise a great traveller, and never resided at Topcroft, but died at London in 1708, and lies buried in St. Bride's church there, leaving this manor and estate to George Smyth†, esq. his eldest son, by Mary, daughter of Thomas Archer, of Gloucestershire, esq. who settled at the manor-house of Topcroft-hall, the present seat of the family; he married Mary, third daughter of William Churchman, esq. of Illington, In 1735 he was high sheriff of Norfolk, and died December, 1745, leaving a numerous family.

Wm. Smyth, of Topcroft, esq. his eldest son, is now lord of these united manors; he married the eldest daughter

* She died May 10, 1708, aged 64, and lies buried in the chancel of Topcroft church.

† Against the north chancel wall at Topcroft there is a neat mural monument of white marble to this gentleman, with the crest and arms of Smyth quartering Churchman, and a Latin inscription; he died December 12, 1693.

daughter of Alderman Black, of Norwich, by whom he has issue. In the late war he commanded a company in the eastern battalion of the Norfolk militia, when upon an expected invasion they were ordered down to Portsmouth.

The said George Smyth left also a second son, Offley Smyth, gent. of Harleston, who by Bransby Bransby, his wife, hath issue. And also Ann, a daughter, married in Gloucestershire.

HOE'S MANOR, in TOPCROFT, is joined to Denton cum Topcroft; it belonged at the conquest to Bury abbey, and at the survey Berengarius held it of the abbot; the leet then belonged to it, and was worth 40s. per ann. In 1196 Roger de Hoe, or Howe, owned it; he divided it into two parts; that in Topcroft Roger de Coggeshale, and the other Nicholas de Falsham had, and being soon after united, it passed through many hands, and was purchased by Andrew de Bixton, citizen of Norwich, whose feoffees in 1348 conveyed it to Jeffrey, his son and heir, who sold it to the Cliftons; and in 1378 sir John Clifton was lord. In 1458 Robert Clifton, esq. who had it by inheritance from his father, joined it to Topcroft cum Denton manor, with which it still remains.

LITTLE-HALL MANOR, in Topcroft, is also joined to the aforesaid manor: this had its original in 1302, when Robert de Tatehale, the fourth of that name, then lord of Topcroft and Denton, granted to William de Bernak, and his heirs, about the third part of the manor, to be held of his capital manor at 2d. a year; and with Margaret, daughter and heiress of sir John Bernak, it went to her husband, John Stoneham, esq. and so to the Greys; John Grey, esq. of

D

Topcroft,

Topcroft, was the first that owned it of that family; he left it to Robert Grey, his son and heir, who sold it to John Stanhawe, of Bedingham, whose son, Ralph Stanhawe, before 1447 sold it to Robert Clifton, esq. who joined it to his other manors, with which it still remains.

The customs of these manors are, the eldest son is heir, they give no dower, every messuage pays 6s. 8d. fine certain, every acre of land of the old grant, or feoffment, pays 2s. each acre fine certain, and every acre of the new grant 4s. fine certain. The quit-rents, *ex parte* Denton, are 18l. 19s. 2d. and *ex parte* Topcroft 19l. 18s. a year.

A decree in Chancery passed Nov. 5, 1590, between Thomas Brewse, esq. lord, and the tenants, settling the customs, and decreeing the measure of land, according to custom, to be twenty-one feet and an half to the perch, or pole; the tenants to cut timber as they please, to repair their copyholds, and also for plow-boot, gate-boot, stile-boot, cart-boot, paling, and all other necessary uses, free of all demand from the lord, and no distinction to be made; but may take off Denton to use at Topcroft, and off Topcroft to use at Denton: but in the decree this: “ The
 “ lords without lett or denial of the coppihold te-
 “ nants, in a convenient time, and without any un-
 “ necessary damage to the said coppiholders, or their
 “ said lands, may take, have, and perceive, conven-
 “ nient and sufficient timber of the trees now being,
 “ or hereafter growing upon the coppihold premises,
 “ or any part thereof, for and towards the building,
 “ transposing, repairing, bettering, or amending the
 “ manor-house of Topcroft-hall, in Topcroft afore-
 “ said, or any of the houses, buildings, or edifices
 “ thereof; or of any water-mills of the lord's, within
 “ the

" the said manors, or any of them, and not other-
 " wise, without the assent, or consent, of the said
 " coppiholder, or customary tenant, that then shall
 " have the present estate, or inheritance, upon whose
 " coppihold lands and tenements the same trees have
 " been, or shall be standing and growing, provided
 " that he or they shall not take so, but that there
 " shall be always left by him, or them, to every se-
 " veral coppiholder, of whom timber shall be so
 " taken, sufficient timber upon his several coppihold
 " for his necessary uses aforementioned, from time
 " to time."

WESTHALL, or PAYONE'S MANOR, in DENTON, was
 formerly a considerable one, extending into divers
 towns; it was in two parts in 1239; Stephen de
 Brockdish granted his part to John de Denton. In
 1256 he claimed to be superior lord of his own fee,
 excluding the earl Marshall, who had only the waifs
 of it in right of the hundred. In 1397 William de
 Wotton had it. In 1345 Robert de Occolt, and
 then it became joined to the principal part of the ma-
 nor, which was infeoffed by Bury abbot in the Bigots,
 and by them in the Bois', of Fersfield, and passed
 with that manor. In 1346 sir John Howard had it.
 In 1401 Gilbert Fransham was lord; and it was soon
 after purchased by Stephen Payone, of Denton, from
 whom it took its name. The next owner we meet
 with was John Bengys, parson of Scarning, who re-
 leased it to Richard Pykot, and so it became joined
 to Starston-hall manor.

This church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, who
 had her image in the chancel, with a light burning
 before it. Doomsday of Norwich tells us, that it was
 valued at thirty-six marks, and that the rector had a
 house and carucate of land. The Chorography says,

there are eighty acres of glebe inclosed and wooded, lying round the house within itself, and hath a pretty manor, having about twenty copyholders, and six marks a year quit-rents, the fines being at the will of the lord. It stands thus in the kings books: 24l. Denton rectory, 2l. 8s. yearly tenths; consequently pays first-fruits, and is capable of augmentation.

Edward I. granted a prohibition in the 31st year of his reign, to his chaplain, rector here, "that no one should molest him for non-residence."

In 1532 Richard Cornwallis, who was not *eleven* years old, was allowed by the Pope to hold this rectory in *commendam* till he was eighteen, and then to become rector and be instituted.

In 1603 the rector returned 136 communicants in this parish; and in 1644 Charles Woodward, A. M. of Sidney college, Cambridge, *ætat.* 25, born at Denton, was ordained deacon.

In 1714 Matthew Postlethwayte, A. M. was presented by Robert Herne, of Denton, patron of this turn; he was afterwards rector of Redenhall, and archdeacon of Norwich. In 1719 he published a sermon in quarto, on Acts 26, 9, intitled, "The
" mbral Impossibility of Protestant Subjects pre-
" serving their Religious or Civil Liberties under
" Popish Princes, &c." Preached at Norwich cathedral, Nov. 5, 1718. He was succeeded by his son, the Rev. Mr. John Postlethwayte*.

The

* John Postlethwayte, A. M. high, or chief master of St. Paul's school, of Merton college, in Oxford, by will, dated Sept, 5, 1713, gave to the archbishops of Canterbury, for ever, the perpetual advowson of the rectory of Denton, in Norfolk,
which

The archbishop of Canterbury is perpetual patron, but must present one that is, or hath formerly been, fellow of Merton college, in Oxford.

In 1750 the Rev. George Sandby, D. D. chancellor of Norwich, was presented to this rectory by the archbishop, and has a handsome summer residence here.

The church, chancel, two ailes, and north porch, are leaded; the north vestry is down. At the west end stands a low square brick tower, in which there are three bells.

In the church-yard, on the south side, there are memorials for several of the family of Jay.

Under this stone lieth Robert Tite, gent. who died Feb. 23, 1737, ætat. 75.—In whom was extinct the male line of the family of the Tites, who have flourished in the parish of Denton from the 30th of Henry VIII. 1538, as appears by the register books of the
D 3. *March 1737. Tite said*

which he purchased of the duke of Norfolk, on condition that the archbishop should, every vacancy, collate "such persons as shall be at those times respectively fellows of Merton college in Oxford, or such as have been formerly fellows of the said college, as their graces shall judge fittest and most worth." He gave also 200l. for adorning the chancel at Denton. The life of this gentleman may be seen at large in the life of dean Collet, written by Samuel Knight, D. D. and published at London, 1724, Miscel. No. VI. p. 384, &c. where the inscription designed for his monument in St. Austin's church, London, where he was buried in 1713, with that in this chancel window, is printed. His character by John Hancock, D. D. rector of St. Martin's Lothbury, London, is in the memorials and characters, with the lives of eminent and worthy persons, published in folio at London, 1741, price 1l. 6s. 6d. in sheets. He was uncle to the late archdeacon Pofflethwayte, rector here.

said parish, who have also been possessed of lands in the same ever since the 4th of Edward VI. as appears by the survey book of Topcroft *cum* Denton.

The east chancel window is all of painted glass, the most perfect and curious to be seen in any country village; it contains the arms of Howard, Brotherton, Warren, and Mowbray, quartered; France and England in a garter; Norwich city; Branch and Rede impaled; Canterbury see impaled with the arms of the archbishops Morton, Kemp, Sheldon, &c. Will. Bannister de com. Somerset, armig. Johannes Sturton, de Preston Pluchnet, com. Dorset, &c.

In the middle pane is an inscription to Joannes Postlethwayte, A. M. 1717.

In a south chancel window, over the rectory pew, are the arms and quarterings of C. le Grys, and Mansfylde.

There is a mural monument of white marble against the north chancel wall, with the crest, arms, and inscription of Robert Rogerfon, A. M. *obijt* 1684.

On a black marble in the chancel are the crest and arms of Rogerfon, impaling a lion ramp. between three holly leaves. Thomas Rogerfon, A. M. of Ampton, in Suffolk, *obijt* Nov. 2, 1740, *ætat.* 78. This gentleman being a *nonjuror*, resigned his living of Ampton, and afterwards lived a peaceable, retired life, and died with a fair character; he gave by will a moiety of the clear yearly rent of six acres, lett at 5l. per ann. towards supporting a charity-school in Denton†, and if there be no such, to furnish every poor

† Here is a school now kept,—Blomefield.

poor family with a bible, a Whole Duty of Man, and a Christian Monitor, and every poor person with a common prayer-book; and the rest to be distributed in bread every first Sunday in the month after Divine service, among such poor house-keepers only as constantly keep their church, and frequently receive the sacrament; the profits to be received and applied by the rector of Denton for the time being, *for ever.*

In the nave a brass to John Gedge, who was buried Nov. 24, 1621, aged 87.

Here are also grave-stones for the families of Hervey, Love, Randall, Thompson, &c.

The north porch hath a stone arch, and a chamber over it, with several carvings in stone, of the Resurrection, the Salutation, the Last Judgment, and our Saviour walking on the water.

It appears by the Terrier, that the rector receives divers portions of tithes from Earsham, Bedingham, and Aldburgh, in which last village there is a meadow belonging to Denton parish; there are seven acres and a half of town lands to repair the church; a pighule, called charitable-use pighule, of 20s. a year, for the use of the poor, which was given by Mr. John Porter, formerly rector. Robert Rogerson, rector, by his will, dated 1713, gave a piece of land, intermixed with the glebe, for the augmentation of the rectory for ever.

In 1693 Sarah Bidbank gave 8s. per ann. to buy bibles, to be given away at Easter by the churchwardens.

Mr. Warnes gave 20s. per ann. to the poor laborers of Denton, which is now paid by the treasurer of the boys hospital, in Norwich.

EARSHAM, or ERESHAM, wrote Hersham in Doomsday-book, was the chief manor of the hundred, and belonged to Stigand the archbishop at the Confessor's survey, when it was worth 11l. being then a mile and a half long, a mile broad, and paid 6d. to the gelt, or tax. At the conquest it belonged to the Conqueror, who committed the management of it to William de Noiers. The soc and sac belonged to it, and the whole was risen to 40l. value.

From the time it was granted to the Norfolk family, along with the half hundred, from the crown, it passed with Forncet manor, the duke of Norfolk being lord of the manor and hundred, and owner of the park here, which is now disparked, though in the 35th of Edward I. it was well stocked, and belonged to the lodge, or manor-house, which had 286 acres in demesne, sixteen acres of meadow, and the hall dykes, or fishery, a water-mill, and many woods and fens*; all which were kept for the use of the family of Roger Bigot, then lord, who chiefly resided at his adjacent castle of Bungay, in Suffolk.

There was a manor here, which formerly belonged to William de Fraxineto, or Freney, who gave the tithes of the demesnes of it to the monks at Castle Acre; it after came to Roger de Glanville, who confirmed that donation, as did Simon bishop of Norwich

* In 1652 the commission of sewers found 418 acres of low ground subject to be damaged by inundations, valued at above 330l. and so paid 13l. 10s. 7d. towards the repair of the sea breach between Lowestoft and Kirkley, in Suffolk; and anciently we find many legacies left to repair Earsham dam.

wich in 1265; but it was extinguished, or was joined to the other manor.

The church is dedicated to All Saints. Norwich Doomſday-book tell us, the rector had then a house and forty acres of land, and now hath about thirty-seven acres; it was first valued at twenty-four, and after at thirty marks. It is incapable of augmentation, and so consequently pays first-fruits and yearly tenths, and stands thus in the king's books: 15l. Earſham rectory,—1l. 10s. tenths.

John Wace, rector, was buried in 1502, and gave a piece of alder-carr to repair the church, and a piece in North Meadow towards paying the town charges *for evermore*.

Henry Simonds, rector, was deprived in 1553, by queen Mary, as a *married* priest, and Henry Cumbreford, S. T. B. was instituted, who resigned in 1558 to Alan Percy, brother to Ann countess of Arundel.

In 1603 the rector returned answer that there were 260 communicants in this parish.

Nicholas Sherwood, A. B. was ejected in 1643 by the earl of Manchester, but lived to be restored, and died April 19, 1671.

In 1717 John Anſlis, esq. garter principal king at arms presented; and in 1746 the Rev. Mr. John Burcham was presented by his father, Mr. Daniel Burcham, who purchased this turn of Mr. Ganning, and who was said to have purchased the advowson of the assinee of the late duke of Norfolk.

The

The church stands on an old encampment, which by its oval form seems to have been a work of the Danes, or Saxons. The tower is square, and hath three bells; the nave, chancel, and south porch are tiled, and the north porch is leaded.

A mural monument in the chancel, on the south side, by the altar, to William Lamb, gent. *obijt* 20 Aug. 1724. *Æt. suæ* 54°. with the arms of Lamb, impaling arg. in a bordure ingrailed, a lion ramp. sab.

Under this monument lies a flat black marble for sir Thomas Barker, knt. who died Aug. 22, 1658, with the arms of Barker.

In the altar rails, on black marbles,—*M. S. Johannes filius secundus, Johannes filius tertius Johannis Buxton de Channonz in prima ætate obierunt, et hic sepeliuntur; sato cessit alter mense Junij, 1710, alter Maij, 1712.*

Robert Gooch, of Earsham, *esq.* ob. 2 Apr. 1655, *æt.* 53. —Ann, daughter of Leonard and Dorothy Gooch, ob. 29 Dec. 1692.—Leonard Gooch, gent. ob. 10 Jan. 1686,—with the arms of Gooch.

Dorothy, wife of Leonard Gooch, gent. one of the daughters of Richard Catlyn, of Kirby, *esq.* ob. 19 June, 1685, *æt.* 48.—Gooch impales Catlyn.

On a monument against the north wall,—*In memoria æterna erunt iusti.* Robert Gooch, late of this town, *esq.* who died Sept. 29, 1704, aged 76. To whose memory his niece, Dame Barbara Ward, wife of sir Edward Ward. bart. of Bixley, in this county, has caused this monument to be erected.





On brasses by the chancel door,—*Hic jacet Simon Throkmerton, secundus filius Johannis Throkmerton, nuper de South Elmham, in comitatu Suffolcie, qui fuit secundus filius Thome Throkmerton, nuper de Throkmerton, in comitatu Wygornie, obiit decimo die Julij, A°. Dni. D°.CCCCC°.xxvii°.*

The estate formerly the Throgmertons, was afterwards the Gooches, and then the Buxtons, on which John Buxton, esq. built the present house, called Earsham-lodge, or hall, and afterwards sold it to colonel William Wyndham, who is interred under the altar, and it is now the seat of the Wyndhams; William Wyndham, esq. is the present lord, and resides at his seat here, of which a view, taken by Mr. Butcher, of Bungay, is given with this work.

MENDHAM comprehends in it Needham, Shotford, and Metfield.

NEEDHAM, or NEDHAM, adjoins east to Brockdish, on the great road, and was originally a hamlet and chapelry to Mendham, which is a very extensive place. The parish church stands just over the river, and so is in Suffolk; but this hamlet and the adjacent part between it and the parish church, on the Norfolk side, were no less than two miles and five furlongs long, and seven furlongs broad, at the Conqueror's survey, and paid 7d. to the gelt, or tax; and the part on the Norfolk side (exclusive of the bounds of this ancient hamlet) was called Shotford, or the part at the ford, (over which there is a good brick bridge built, called Shotford-bridge, at this day) and for many ages had a rector presented to it, who served in the church of Mendham, by the name of the rector of Shotford portion, in Mendham. Part of Herolveston, or Harleston, then belonged to Mendham; and now that part opposite the south side of the chapel.

Mendham

Mendham parish church is dedicated to All Saints, and was originally a rectory, one turn of which was in sir William de Huntingfield, founder of the priory here, to which he gave it, and the other in sir Thomas de Needham, who gave it to the prior and convent of the Holy Trinity at Ipswich, to which it was appropriated by Thomas de Blundeville, bishop of Norwich, in 1227, when the vicarage was settled†: and the first vicar here was presented by the prior of Ipswich. The account of this church in Norwich Doomſday-book is thus: "The prior of the Holy Trinity of Ipswich hath the moiety of the church of Mendham appropriated to his convent, and hath a house and two carucates of land, and receives the tithes of the demefnes of sir Thomas de Nedham; this was valued formerly at fifteen marks. The prior of Mendham hath the other moiety, and receives the tithes of sir William de Huntingfield, and his moiety is valued at ten marks. Sir Thomas de Clare is patron of the third part, which the vicar holds of the fee of Cockfield, and is valued at five marks."

The chapel of St. Peter at Needham was in all probability founded by sir Thomas de Needham, for his own tenants, and being so far from the mother church of Mendham, was made parochial, and hath separate bounds, officers, administration of sacraments, and burial; 'tis under the episcopal, but exempt from the archidiaconal jurisdiction; for it pays neither synodals, procurations, nor Peter-pence; but the two medieties were in Mendham church, and not in this chapel.

In

† A house and land was settled in 1226 on the priory of Ipswich, by William de Arches, and Eve, his wife, with half a carucate of land, and a manor thereto belonging in Mendham, called Whitendon.

In 1329 a perpetual composition and agreement was made between the parishioners of the mother church of Mendham, and those of the chapel of Needham, by which, in lieu of all reparations and dues to the parish of Mendham, they agreed to pay 18d. every Easter-day, towards the repairs of Mendham church, as an acknowledgement that they were members of it.

In 1411 the parishioners of Needham complained to pope John XXIII. that their chapel *was not well served*, though the prior of Mendham *was well paid* his tithes; upon which a bull, directed to the bishop of Norwich, issued, commanding him to oblige the prior of Mendham to find, and give security to him, that that convent would always find a parochial chaplain resident in Needham, well and duly to serve the chapel there; and ever since the impropriator of Mendham nominates the parish chaplain.

In 1603 it was returned that there were 220 communicants, and that it was an impropriation, the herbage being reserved for the maintenance of the minister, who hath now the vicarial tithes, amounting to about 14l. per ann. for which it is served once a fortnight. The Rev. John Stockdale was presented to this curacy in 1764.

The steeple is round at bottom, and octangular at top, and hath four bells in it; the south porch and nave are tiled.

There are several stones, but none with inscriptions on them, all their brasses being reaved.

The chancel was wholly rebuilt in 1735, of brick, and tiled, (though less than the old one was) by William

liam Freston, esq. of Mendham, who is interred in it, for whom there is a mural monument on the south side, with his arms, impaling Kedington, and an inscription. He died October 26, 1739, aged 55.

This chapelry hath a lect held in it by the duke of Norfolk's steward, it being in his grace's liberty, who is lord paramount in right of his hundred of Earsham over all the Norfolk part of Mendham. In 1285 Roger Bigot, then lord of the hundred, had free-warren allowed him here.

The abbot and convent of Sibton, in Suffolk, had a fishery, and water-mill, called Fryer's-mill, in this place, which was lett with their grainge and manor of Weybrede, in Suffolk, which in 1611 belonged to George Herring, of Norwich*.

This hamlet originally belonged to the abbot of Bury, and was infeoffed by Frodo at the conquest, whose descendents took the surname of Nedham, and, contrary to the common rule, gave their name to this place: It should seem that the family extinguished in several heiresses, by the many parts or manors it was divided into; and now there are four manors still subsisting here.

The first is a very small one, called SILEHAM COMITIS, *Ex Parte Norfolk*, and was originally part of the earl's manor of Sileham, from which it was separated, and now belongs to James Bransby, esq. of Shottisham, in Henstead hundred.

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* The Convent of Redlingfield, in Suffolk, had lands here, taxed at 2s. 6d. and the monastery of St. Faith at Horsham land was taxed at 4s.

The second is called DENISON's, or DENSTON's MANOR; this was given to the priory of Mendham, to which it belonged till its dissolution.

This monastery was founded in the time of king Stephen by William de Huntingfield, who gave the whole isle of Mendham, called Medenham, or the Village of Meadows, to the monks of Castle Acre, on condition they should erect a church of stone, and build a convent by it, and place at least eight of their monks there, in the place called Hurst, or Bruninshurst, being then a woody isle on the Sussex side of the river: accordingly, monks being placed there, the founder ordered that they should be subject to Castle Acre monks, as a cell to that house, in the same manner as Castle Acre itself was to the monastery of St. Pancras, at Lewes, in Sussex, and that to the church of Cluni, or Clugny, in France: but after the death of the founder, the prior of Castle Acre covenanted with Roger de Huntingfield, his son, (who was also a great benefactor) to maintain at least eight monks at Mendham, and not to depose the prior there, unless for disobedience, incontinence, or dilapidations of the house.

Their founder gave the whole island of St. Mary of Mendham, with Ulveshage, and the grainges there, and many other lands, rents, and homages, and all his lands in Crochestune, or Croxton, and his homagers there, which were all to be employed by the prior, to the maintenance of Mendham monks, except half a mark of silver to be paid yearly to the priory of Castle Acre, as an acknowledgement of their depending as a cell to that monastery: he gave them also St. Margaret's church at Linstead, and St. Peter's there; the moiety of the church of Trideling,
and

and several lands. together with all his right in the church of Mendham.

In 1386 sir Robert de Swillington, knt. sir Roger Bois, knt. &c. settled the patronage of this monastery on Isabel countess of Suffolk.

This house and all its revenues were given by Henry VIII. together with the lands of the dissolved priories of Ankerwick, in Lincolnshire, and Little Marlow, in Buckinghamshire, to the then newly restored monastery at Bisham, or Butlesham, in Berkshire, in 1537, by way of augmentation, to the value of 66*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* per ann. for the maintenance of an abbot and thirteen monks of the Benedictine order; but that monastery was short-lived, and soon fell; and this house, &c. in 1539 was granted to Charles duke of Suffolk, and with it this manor of Denston, which (in the 2*d* and 3*d* of Philip and Mary) was conveyed to Richard Freston, esq. and it continued in his family some time; it now (Blomefield) belongs to the Bacons.

The prior was taxed for all his temporals in Mendham, on the Norfolk side, at 4*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*

The third Manor is called BOURT's, and was owned by Daniel Bourt in 1345, and after by John le Strange, and Thomas de Hales, who held it at half a fee of the heirs of Roger de Huntingfield; it after belonged to the Grices, of Brockdish. In 1600 Thomas Pawlet, esq. conveyed it to Thomas Leigh and John Godfrey; it now belongs to the heirs of — Schutz, esq. who married the only sister and heiress of the late sir Edmund Bacon, bart. of Gillingham.

The

The fourth manor is called Gunshaws, which formerly belonged to the Heylocks, and was purchased of the Wifemans by Mr. Stiles, of Coddendam. It was since owned by Mr. Nunn, of Southwold, in Suffolk.

To this hamlet joins the aforesaid portion of Mendham, called SHOTFORD, or SCOTOFORD, in Mendham, which contains two manors, called Whitenendon's, or the White-hills, and Semeare's, each of which originally presented alternately to the portion, Shotford, in Mendham church. The patronage was in the de Inghams, and afterwards in lord Strange, of Knockyn, till 1350; after which sir Miles Stapleton, knt. having the whole advowson, gave it to Mendham priory; and on the 3d of July, 1385, it was appropriated to the monastery of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at Mendham, and no vicarage ordained, so that the prior received all tithes whatever of the whole portion, paying a pension of 6s. 8d. yearly to the bishop, and finding a chaplain to perform a third part of the service in Mendham church; which service was after turned into that of a chantry priest, who was to officiate in St. Mary's chapel, on the east side of Mendham church-yard; and that service ceased in the time of Edward VI. and the chapel was granted by the crown into lay hands, and is now used as a malthouse.

The MANOR of SEMERE's at the Conqueror's survey belonged to Roger of Poitou, third son of Roger de Montgomery, earl of Arundel, and was held in the Confessor's time by a free-man, named Ulfriz; it was then valued at 10s. and after at 20s. It divided into two parts, one belonged in 1311 to sir Edmund de Sancto-Mauro, or Seymore, knt. from which family it took its name. It appears that in 1291 John
E de

de Brampton held the other part of Elizabeth de Ingham, at half a fee, and it then divided, the one half continuing in the Inghams; and it passed with that family till sir Miles Stapleton gave it to Mendham priory, when it became joined to Denston's, in Needham. The other part, now Semere's manor, was sold to sir John Wingfield, by Laurence de Seymore; and in 1349 John Garlek conveyed his third parts of Sileham, Earsham, and this manor, and their advowson, to him. In 1401 Edward Hales was lord. In 1551 it was sold to Henry Floteman, and then passed to the late John Kerrich, of Bury, M. D.

WHITENDON's, or WICHENDON's MANOR, belonged to Humfrey, a free-man of Edric's, in the Confessor's time; and to Robert Malet, lord of the honor of Eye, in the Conqueror's; it after belonged to a family surnamed de Arcubus; and in 1226 William de Arches gave it to the priory of the Holy Trinity at Ipswich, in which house it continued till its dissolution, when it came to the crown; and in the 1st of Edward VI. 1546, he granted the advowson of Sileham, and its appurtenances, this manor of Wichendon, and all the tithes and glebes in Mendham, Needham, and Metfield, late in the tenure of Richard Freston, esq. to the said Richard, and his heirs, who upon this grant came and settled in the manor-house here, and his descendents have continued in it to this time. This Richard in 1534 appears to be treasurer, and a great favourite of Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, and an intimate acquaintance of sir Robert Buddes, who was master of Wingfield college, and chaplain to his grace; and it was by his interest that he obtained several great grants from the crown; among which, he had Denston's manor in Needham, and many lands belonging to Mendham priory; he was afterwards knighted, and lies buried with Dame Ann

Ann Coke, his wife, in Mendham chancel, for whom there is a monument against the east part of the north wall, with the arms of Freston impaling Coke, which shews that he out-lived his wife; he died in 1557, and was succeeded by Richard, his son and heir, who married Cecily, daughter of Thomas Felton, esq. she died Sept. 6, 1615, and lies buried in the chancel, under a stone, on which is her effigy, and an inscription in Roman capitals, on brass plates.

An adjoining stone hath the arms of Freston, with a mullet, impaling Felton, and his image in brass; Richard Freston, esq. died Nov. 27, 1616.

William Freston, esq. their eldest son, inherited; and in 1620 settled the manor on Alban Pigot, esq. with the patronage of Needham chapel; and in the same year sir Robert Heath, knt. recovered it against Pigot, and conveyed it to Freston again; he died soon after, and Richard, his brother, inherited, and died seised of this and Denston's manor in 1634; he is buried under a stone in the chancel, with his crest and arms, and on a brass plate this:—*Animam Creatori, marmoreo presenti monumento, Ricardus Freston (dum vixit, in Agro Norfolciensi, armiger). corporis reliquias, amicis omnibus sui desiderium, 20 Dec. A. D. 1634, reliquit, non procul a cujus dextra, pater, materque ejus requiescunt. Vitam vixit summa cum pietate, tum morum probitate, laudabilem amicitiam magna cum sinceritate coluit.*

By this lies a stone with Freston's arms single, in memory of his son, Richard, *obijt 14 Augusti, 1648.*

Here are several other mural monuments in memory of this family.

Penelope, late wife of John Smith, of Cratfield, in Suffolk, buried here in 1681, *etat.* 51, whose marble lies in the altar rails, and hath the arms of Smith impaling Freston.

William Freston, esq. and Margaret Kedington, his wife, who are buried in Needham chapel, as before, left this manor, impropriation, and a good estate, to Coke Freston, esq. their eldest son, who lived in the scite of the manor, called Wichendon-hall.

In the Suffolk part of Mendham there are four manors; the first is called MENDHAM'S-HALL, or MENDHAM-HALL, from the ancient lords of it, who took their surname from the town; it originally belonged to the abbot of Bury. In 1318 John de Mendham sold it to the lord of King's-hall, in Mendham*, to which it hath been joined ever since. This manor belonged to the king, according as its name intimates, and was settled by Edward I. on queen Eleanor, his first wife, after whose death it came to the Veres, earls of Oxford; and sir Robert Vere in 1314 sold it to sir John de Frefingfield, knt. at which time Robert, son of John de Mendham, released to him all right in Mendham's-hall manor; and in 1327 sir John sold them to sir Walter de Norwich, knt. the earl of Oxford releasing all right. In 1353 sir John de Huntingfield held those manors; and in 1363 it was presented that William de Huntingfield held the river Waghene as a separate fishing, from Mendham-bridge to King's-hall mill, and that he had the fishery, as belonging to his manor of King's-hall, and soon after, in 1370, settled them on Mendham priory, in which they continued to its dissolution, and then

* Called in 1328 Kenynghale in Parochia de Mendham.

then were granted to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, by Henry VIII. in 1540, along with the leet of Metfield, and the manor of MENDHAM PRIORY, which was given to it by its founder. They after belonged to the Frestons; and in 1551 Richard Freston was lord.

In 1619 sir Thomas Holland, of Quidenham, knt. sold to Edward Ward, of Mendham, in Suffolk, esq. the scite of Mendham priory manor, now called Mendham-hall, &c. King's-hall meadow, &c. the park, the manor of Mendham-hall, &c. with the leets thereto belonging, situate in Mendham, Witherdsale, and Waybrene, all which he purchased of Anthony Gofnold, of Clopton, esq. &c. together with the fishery in the river Wayveneth. It came afterwards to the Baxters, and thence to the Gardiners, of Norwich; it was sold by Richard Berney, esq. recorder of Norwich, executor to Stephen Gardiner, esq. late recorder there, to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Whitaker, late rector of Frefingfield. They have a leet here, and another in Metfield, belonging to them; they give dower, and the eldest son is heir.

There are several memorials relating to the Baxters in this church.

On a neat mural monument are the arms Godbold,—*M. S. V. Cmi. D. Gulielmi Godbold, militis, ex illustri et per antiqua prosapia oriundi, qui post septennem peregrinationem, animi excolendi gratia, per Italiam, Greciam, Palæstinam, &c. in solo natali in bonarum literarum studijs consensescens, morte repentina obiit Londini, mense Aprilis A°. MDCXCIII. ætatis LXIX°. Hoc monumentum designavit vir integerrimus, et sincere probitatis exemplar, Thomas Baxter generosus, quem testamenti sui curatorem instituit; ipso autem Thoma, morte subitanea per-*

empto, collapsio super eum equo, nocte intempestiva et tenebrosa. IIII calendas Septemb. MDCXC. Franciscus Gardiner de civitate Norwicensi, armiger, ejusdem Thomæ Baxter, sororis maritus, et testamenti curator, posuit.

Baxter impaling D'Eye,—*Elizabetha, filia Thomæ Dey, de insula, sive Eay in agro Suffolciensi armigera, uxor Thomæ Baxter, de Mendham, in eodem agro, generosi, obiit 27 Dec. 1681.*

The next manor here is called WALSHAM-HALL, from Gilbert de Walsham, who held it of the abbot of Bury in the time of Richard I. at one fee; and lately it belonged to the Hobarts, who lived in the site of it till Anthony Hobart, gent. sold it to Mr. Robert Bransby, senior, of Shottisham, who sold it to Mrs. Sarah Wogan, wife of the Rev. Mr. Holmes, rector of Frelingfield.

In the chancel, on a brass plate, the arms of Hobart.

On a stone at the east end of the nave, part of which is covered by a seat, James Hobart, esq. August 20, 1669.

Besides these there are several memorials for others of this family.

There is an under manor, or free-tenement, called Middleton-Hall, in this town, which belongs to Mrs. Whitaker, and is a good old seat; here Richard de Middleton lived in 1373. This family continued here a long time. In 1558 Henry Reppes, of Mendham, died seized of it; and in 1562 Richard Whetley, rector of Homersfield, leased his rectory to Bassingbourn Gawdy, of Middleton-Hall, in Mendham, esq.
by

by whom it was sold, and so became joined to the other manors.

There is an ancient seat here, called Oaken-Hill, (but no manor) in which the family of the Batemans have resided ever since the time of William Bateman, bishop of Norwich. William Bateman, gent. of Mendham, lately dwelt there. Most of this family have had the Christian name of William ever since the bishop's time.

Mendham church is a good building, with a square tower and five bells, having a nave, two aisles, and south porch, leaded, and chancel tiled, in which are several memorials, besides those already taken notice of.

In the north aisle window, France and England in a bordure, gul. impaling or. an eagle displayed fab. quartering Morley.

On a mural monument against the north chancel wall,—*In medio-hujus-ce templi tramite, juxta Cineres matris suæ pietissimæ, Theop. Rant, suos etiam voluit deponi* Freslonus Rant, armiger, cum quo una sepeliuntur urbanitas, et suavissima facietiarum copia, cum quo una abripiuntur ditissima placendi vena, animusque ætioris amicitie necessitudini accomodatus, hoc juvene adempto, vix alterum reperiēs, aut literarum scientia præcellentiore aut humanitate parem, cum difficilem legis Angliæ doctrinam, universam fere quinquennium apud hospitium Grayense studio sane laudabili prosecutus est, acerba suis, luctuosa sodalibus, gravis omnibus, labori vitæque mors finem imposuit 23° Sept. A°. 1728, æt. suæ 27°. Et luctus et pietatus monumentum, pater suus amantissimus, Jacobus Rant, armiger, hoc marmor posuit.

James Rant, esq. his father, is since dead, and buried by him ; and William Rant, esq. his only surviving son, lived in Mendham priory, which is situated just by the river Waveney, about five furlongs south-west of the church, where there is a good old chapel still left, which is kept clean and neat, but there is no manor remaining with the site.

In the chancel,—*James Tirrel, esq. May 22, 1656, 48.*

In the church-yard is a memorial for *Johannis Kerrich, clerici rectoris de Sternefield, in comitatu Suffolciæ, ob. 14 Maij, A. D. 1691, æt. 28°*,—and for others of his family.

In 1469 Walter Nyche, or Neech, of Mendham, was buried in All Saints church there: he owned an estate here, which had continued many generations in his family. In 1610, Jan. 21, Ann Neech married William Bateman, gent. to whose family the estate now belongs.

The vicarage stands in the king's books at 5l. 5s. 2d. ob. and being sworn of the clear yearly value of 23l. 4s. 7d. is capable of augmentation, and was augmented accordingly by the Rev. Mr. Whitaker, late rector of Fressingfield, the patron, who presented his nephew, the Rev. Mr. Thomas Whitaker, to this vicarage, who was patron also in 1764.—*Vide Kirby.*

In 1228 the first vicar was presented by the prior of Ipswich, as were all the succeeding vicars to the dissolution.

MEDFIELD, or METFIELD, or the Field by the Meadows, is also another hamlet and parochial chapel

chapel of Mendham, the great tithes of which belong to the impropriator there, who nominates and pays the stipendiary chaplain. The Rev. Mr. John Mendham, vicar of Weybrede, had it in Mr. Blomefield's time, and we are informed there is a good house and glebe given to the serving minister since the reformation.

The chapel is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and hath a square tower, clock, and three bells; the south porch, nave, and chancel, are leaded.

There is a stone for—*Francis Smallpeece, esq. son and heir of Thomas Smallpeece, esq. and Ann, his wife, 1652,—with his arms.*

This hamlet is of chief remark, being the ancient seat of the Jermys.

It seems this manor, called METEFIELD, in Mendham, was anciently of the fee of the abbot of St. Bennet at Holme, of whom it was held in the time of Richard I. at half a fee, by Hugh Burd; after which it was escheated to the crown, and was granted to Thomas de Brotherton, son to Edward I. who married Alice, daughter of sir Roger Hales, of Harwich, knt. whose sister, Joan, married sir John Germyn, or Jermy, knt, and in 1325 the said Thomas conveyed to his brother-in-law, sir John Jermy, knt. two parts of this manor, and the third part to his wife, for the assignment of her dower. In 1428 sir John Jermy, knt. owned this, and rebuilt this church and manor-house, where he placed the matches of his family in the windows, and his own arms are carved several times on the timber of the roof, and are still in several windows, and in stone on the font; he died in 1487, and was buried at the north-east corner of the

the chancel; his inscription was cut in old text letters on his stone, but it is so worn and broken, that little of it remains.

From a younger branch descended the Jermys of Bayfield, in Holt hundred; and John Jermy, esq. of the eldest, continued the family at Metfield, and lies buried in the chancel, by his grandfather, with a brass plate on his stone; *obijt* Jan. 14, 1504, with the arms of Jermy and Hopton.

Sir John Jermy, of Metfield, and Brightwell, knight of the bath, was his grandson.

An altar-tomb at the north-east corner of this chancel, with the arms of Jermy, and this:—*Thomas Jarmy, esq. sonne and heire of sir Thomas Jarmy, knight of the honorable order of the Bath, Dec. 21, 1652.*

Since which time the manor hath been sold from the family, and passed to Walter Plommer, esq.

We have seen an account, which says, "that more gentlemen kept coaches in Mendham than in any place in Suffolk, and that in 1642 many cavaliers in these parts raised a sum for the king; among which, in this town, Richard Baxter, gent. lord, 30l. Robert Harper, 30l. William Bateman, senior, 10l. James Terrold, gent. 10l. William Jacob, 20l. William Herring, 3l. &c. Thomas Jermy, esq. 20l. Anthony Freston, gent. 5l."

In the time of Charles II. sir William Godbould lived here, and colonel John Hobart; and Edward Ward, esq. justice of the peace, in the time of James II.

PULHAM,

PULHAM. This rectory, with the chapel of St. Mary Magdalen, was taxed in the old value at seventy marks; and in the year 1559 was returned by the name of *Pulham Utraque*, among the benefices that pay double institution fees, but without reason, for there never was a double institution, it being only a chapel of ease to Pulham St. Mary the Virgin, founded on account of the market anciently held there, which occasioned a great many people to fix near it, and for their convenience it was first erected. Norwich Doomsday says, that the rector had a noble house, and about forty-four acres of glebe; that the church, with its chapel, was then valued at eighty marks, and that the parish paid clear to each tenth 11l. 4s. It is an undischarged living, and as such, pays first fruits and yearly tenths, and is capable of augmentation. It stands thus in the king's books:—56l. 6s. 8d.—Pulham rectory,—3l. 6s. 8d. tenths.

The Chorography of Norfolk hath this: “To the rectory belongs an ancient and large built inset house, and all other houses of office necessary and convenient, with forty-four acres of glebe; all tithes are paid in kind, save for lactage 1d. for every acre of meadow 2d. for port and hearthsilver is paid a Hal-lowmalls-penny; and the rector hath mortuaries of all his parishioners, according to the statute. The temporals of the prior of Ely were taxed at 3l.

In 1253 Henry de Wengham, dean of St. Martin le Grand, in London, was presented to the rectory by the king, on account of the vacancy of the see of Ely, to which the advowson belongs. Henry III. at the death of William de Kilkenny, bishop of Ely, would have prevailed upon Ely monks to have chosen this Henry de Wengham, then his chancellor, to that see, but could not persuade them: upon
which

which the king spoiled the woods and parks of the bishopric, and applied to the pope. In 1259 he was made bishop of London, being then chancellor of England, chamberlain of Gascoigne, dean of Tottenham and St. Martin's, and rector here. In 1258 he refused the bishopric of Winchester. He was twice ambassador into France, and dying July 13, 1261, was buried in his cathedral.

Sir Simon de Walpole died rector here in 1331, and lies interred in the chancel, under a stone, which hath the following inscription in Saxon characters, with a cross on a lion passant, and Jesus Salvator in a cypher:—*Hic jacet Dominus Simon de Walpol, quondam rector istius ecclesie, cujus anime propicietur Deus, Amen.*

Thomas Lisle, or Lylde, bishop of Ely, disobliging the king, in 1354, had a writ of *Ne exeas Regnum* sent him, commanding him in forfeiture of all that he could forfeit to the king to stay in England, and come in person to the parliament, which he had refused to do, and therefore the king seized this advowson; and on the vacancy of this rectory, about 1357, gave it to William de Wykham, who was parson of St. Martin's, in London, then dean of St. Martin le Grand, successively archdeacon of Lincoln, Northampton, and Buckingham: besides these ecclesiastical preferments, the provostship of Wells, a number of benefices, and twelve prebends, in several churches; he held many temporal offices, as the secretaryship, the keeping of the privy seal, the mastership of wards, the treasurership of the king's revenues in France, and divers others; but the yearly revenues of his spiritual promotions only, as they were then rated in the king's books, amounted unto 876l. 13s. 4d. In 1356 he was prosecuted in the pope's consistory at Rome,

Rome, for *illegally* holding this benefice with so many that had cure of souls, but to no purpose; for Edward III. who gave it him, and did every thing for him he desired, immediately confirmed it by patent under the great seal to be held in *commendam* for life, with all his other preferments; he was consecrated bishop of Winchester in 1376, and was chancellor of England; he was founder of New College, in Oxford, and died in 1404.

In 1465 sir Thomas Howes, rector, chaplain to sir John Fastolf, knight of the garter, was presented by William Grey, bishop of Ely: this man was one of sir John's executors, and had much money to be laid out about the repairs and ornaments of churches, and other religious places, in all, about 4000 marks; with part of it he repaired this church and chancel, and in a south window there he put up the effigy of sir John Fastolf, in his coat armour, gilt, very fair, with his crest, and supporters, Fastolf impaling Tiptoft, over Millecent, daughter of sir Robert Tiptoft, knt. his wife, whose effigy, in a mantle of her coat armour, was in the same window, kneeling in the opposite pane, and underneath an inscription, now defaced.

In 1565 John Crane was the first that presented in right of the crown, where the patronage remains at this time; his successor in 1603 returned answer, "that though Pulham Magdalen was only a chapel of ease to Pulham St. Mary the Virgin, yet they were separate parishes, and that there were 286 communicants in St. Mary's, and 282 in St. Mary Magdalen's parish.

In 1717 Nicholas Clagett, was rector here, and afterwards died bishop of Exeter.

In

In 1728 William Broome, L. L. D. had this rectory, and held it till his death; he was a learned man, especially in the Greek language, being chiefly concerned in translating the notes for Mr. Pope's Homer; and was also no mean poet himself, as his poems published shew: he died at Bath, and was succeeded by the honorable Edward Townshend, brother to lord Townshend.

In 1765 the Rev. Thomas Bowen was presented to the rectory of Pulham St. Mary, with the chapel of St. Mary Magdalen, and Wortwell, by the crown, *p. j.*

About a furlong distant from the church, south-west thereof, on the other side of the road, stands a small chapel, now used for a school-room, which seems to have been founded very early, by the brethren and sisters of St. James's guild, to which apostle this chapel was dedicated, and in which St. James's guild was held, till the time of Edward VI. when all such fraternities were suppressed. Here was a hermitage close by it, in which a hermit dwelt, who daily officiated in it, and prayed for the living members of the guild, and for the souls of the deceased that belonged to it. The present fabric was built about 1401, when the bishop of Ely granted an *indulgence* of forty days pardon, to last for three years, to all that would contribute to rebuild it, and to maintain Walter Colman, the poor hermit, there.

This town was famous for hats, dornecks, and coverlets, which were made in great quantities here; and indeed, in the act passed in 1551, for the advantage of the citizens of Norwich, forbidding any out of the city, unless in some corporate and market town, to make any of those commodities, all of these
businesses.

businesses living in Pulham were excepted, as those trades had been there followed for some time past.

The church of St. Mary the Virgin is the principal, or mother church, and hath a square tower, with a spire on its top, and six bells; the nave, south aisle, and porch, as also the chancel, are covered with lead, the north vestry being down.

In the porch chamber lie abundance of court rolls and evidences of the manor, with armour, a broken organ, and several brass plates reaved off the stones in the church.

There is a stone in the chancel having its brass plate, on which the inscription was lost; but on another plate, the arms of Lany impaling Aslack, which shews, that that Lany who married the heiress of Aslack is here interred.

On a black marble, within the communion rails, the son, Aslack Lany, and his wife, with two coats marshalled, viz. 1. Aslack, 2. Lany, and their quarterings, impaling Jermy, and this:—*Here lyeth buried the body of Aslack Lany, esq. who being of the age of 71 years, died in Jan. 1639. And also the body of Elizabeth Lany, his wife, who being 68 years old in Sept. 1646, died after that time, and was one of the daughters of John Jermy, esq.*

Here are other monuments to this family, and to the Sayers, &c. in the church.

There are altar-tombs at the east end of the chancel in the church-yard, to Wood, Stebbing, and Watts.

In the time of John Morton, bishop of Ely, who was consecrated in 1478, translated to Canterbury in 1486, and died in 1500, the windows of this church were new glazed, and adorned with the arms of the East Angles, of the see, of Ely single, and impaled with Morton; and this he did in respect to Robert Morton, esq. his uncle, who lived here, and was buried in this church in 1467.

It seems that the tower and porch were built about this time, by the assistance of the bishop and other benefactors. On the porch there is a great quantity of imagery in stone, and five images carved in stone are fixed on the top of the battlements, and many cinquefoils about the building.

In the east window in the chancel are the arms of the East Angles, of Ely church, and St. George; England alone; also Tiptoft, or Tibetot.

The chapel of St. Mary Magdalen, commonly called Pulham-market church, is a good fabric, with a large square tower, a clock, and six bells; a handsome north porch, two ailes, and nave, all leaded; the chancel being tiled; it is an exceeding handsome building, kept very neat and clean. It stands at the south end of the late market-place, and is a mile at least from its mother church.

In the chancel,—*Mr. Thomas Claxton, merchant, of London, died 21 July, 1681, 40,—with his arms.*

In the nave, towards the chancel,—*John Rede, gent. ob. 5 Nov. 1721, 52.*

Robert

Robert Prentice, gent. died in 1639, and gave 5l. to each of the Pulhams, 20l. to Mr. Sayer, rector there, and 1l. to Starston poor.

On a mural monument on the south side of the church, towards the east end,—*In a vault near this place lies interred Peter Rosier, esq. who was high-sheriff of the county of Norfolk in 1737, and died at Pulham St. Mary Magdalen, October 18, 1743, in the 81st year of his age.*

Mr. Thomas Palgrave, obiit sexto die Martij, A. D. 1638. Cujus ossa et cineres sub hoc lapide requiescunt.—He was son of Thomas Palgrave, esq. who was buried here in 1545.

On a neat mural monument against the east end of the north aisle, with Palgrave's arms,—*H. S. C. Guilielmus Palgrave, M. D. de Gippovico in comitatu Suffolciensi, Gulielmi Palgrave, de hoc pago generosi filius, ob. Sept. 14^o. A. D. MDCCXLII. æt. 49. Liberi ejus Johannes et Dorothea Infantes, morte abrepti hic sepeliuntur.*

On a marble in the south aisle are the arms and crest of Palgrave.—*Thomas Palgrave, esq. some time sheriff and member of parliament for the city of Norwich, in the reign of the late queen Ann of ever blessed memory: he gave an hundred pounds to a charity-school in the parish of St. Peter Mancroft, in Norwich (wherein he was born) towards the education of poor children, according to the liturgy of the church of England, ob. Aug. 7, 1726, æt. 84, 6 months.*

In the same aisle, against the south wall, towards the east end, by Rosier's monument, is another, with the arms of Cornwallis, &c.—*In memory of John*

F

Stanhawe,

Slanhawe, late of this parish, gent. who was buried near to this place, Sept. 19, 1729, aged 54.

PULHAM, or PULLAHAM, signifies the village of pools, or standing waters*. The earliest account we meet of this town is, that it belonged to Waldchist, a Saxon, who forfeited all that he had to king Edmund, who was lord of it, and left it to king Etheldred, or Edred, his brother; and at his death it went to king Edwy, and after him to king Edgar, his brother, who sold it to Wolstan, and at his death to Ethelwold, bishop of Winchester, for 40l. and he gave it to the abbey of St. Etheldred, or Audrey, at Ely, who was in full possession at the Norman conquest. The survey then taken tells us, that in the Confessor's time it belonged to Ely, and the whole manor was worth 8l. and at the conquest was risen to 15l. a year. The town was then two miles long, a mile broad, and paid 30d. to the gelt, or tax, and was exempt from the jurisdiction of the half-hundred of Earsham, as belonging to the church of St. Audrey, though now it is reckoned among the towns in the duke of Norfolk's liberty, as being in Earsham half-hundred.

In 1249 it appears from the plea rolls that there was a weekly Wednesday market here; and in 1250 the bishop of Ely, on whom this fee was settled at its first erection, had a charter of free-warren throughout the manor†.

In 1277 the town was in the free hundred of earl Roger Bigot, called Eresham half-hundred, to which the

* Pulla, a pool, or lake, of standing water, whence a pulk is a small pond, or hole, of standing water.

† This manor before the erection of the bishopric was fixed to find two weeks provision for Ely convent.

the bishop's bailiff did suit from hundred court to hundred court, and paid 2s. every Michaelmas-day at the will of the earl, or his bailiffs, who might chuse either the suit or the money. The advowson of the church of St. Mary the Virgin, at Pulham, with the chapel of St. Mary Magdalen there, belonged to the bishop of Ely, with the market held by the said chapel, the profits of which were then worth three marks and a half per ann. the profits of the fairs † held there being included. There was then a park of sixty acres, and all the lands, but the several, and commons, were whole-year land.

The commons of Northwood-green, and Westwood, were common to the whole town only; but notwithstanding, no person could cut wood on them but the lord, who had from the several tenants every year 13335 days work.

Among the free-men of the manor, sir Adam de Tisteshale, or Tithshale, knt. sir Roger de Thirkelby, the parson of Pulham, the prior of Ely, Richard de Kittleshaw, and William Howard, held divers lands, &c. and the whole was divided into four leets, or divisions, at each of which the tenants inhabiting the several divisions appeared; East or Upleet, West-leet, South-leet, and Gidlardes, or North-leet.

In 1286 the bishop of Ely claimed the following privileges to this manor, and they were allowed in Eire, viz. infangeneth, outfangenthes, view of frankpledge, assize of bread and ale, pleas de *namio velito*,

F 2 and

† Besides the wakes and fairs heretofore held on the days of the dedication of the church and chapel, there was one held on Wednesday in Ascension-week: this only now remains, and is lately altered, being now always kept on the Monday in Ascension-week.

and to have a prison, and carry and re-carry his prisoners any where before the king's justices; to have the fines and amerciaments of all his tenants, and all the goods and chattels of felons and fugitives, with the return of writs, and all other liberties belonging to his see of Ely, together with free-warren, according to the charter of Henry III.

In 1431 Pulham was returned to be within the liberty of the bishop of Ely, it being held in demesne of the king, as parcel of the bishop's barony, and so continued till the 1st of queen Elizabeth, and then it came to the crown, by virtue of an exchange made with that see. It continued there some time, it being above 102l. per ann. besides the woods, in 1558, but was soon leased out at 13l. 6s. per ann. and many of the woods and demesnes granted to divers persons; but in 1609 the citizens of London held it in fee-farm, when the free and copyhold rents amounted to the sum of 71l. 8s. 9d. per ann. and the farm of the lands 37l. 10s. 7d. but that lease being out in 1622. Richard Ashworth, sen. esq. accounted with Charles prince of Wales, on whom James I. had settled it, for 107l. 2s. 4d. in rents, and 18l. 3s. for fines of lands, and perquisites of courts*; and about
1631

* Charles I. in recompence for 229,897l. 2s. already advanced to James I. and himself, and for 12000l. to be advanced by the chamber of London, for which he was to assure lands of the clear yearly value of 1249l. 6s. 6d. among other alienations of crown lands, did grant to the mayor and corporation of the city of London the manor of Pulham, which was leased by James I. *anno reg.* 17. to sir Henry Hobart, knight and baronet, chief justice of the common pleas, and other feoffees, together with the royalty, and all that lately belonged to the see of Ely; and it was assigned to Ann, his wife, as part of her jointure, with all the leets, &c. and parks stocked with deer, to be held of the crown as of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty, in
free

1631 it was sold by Charles I. and the chamber of London (the advowson being excepted) to divers tenants; and in the year 1679 was divided into thirty parts; one part in 1633 belonged to John Bradshaw, esq. Windsor herald, who lived in Southolt, in Suffolk, and died there the same year. This part came afterwards to Thomas Fauconberge, who married Margaret, daughter of the said John Bradshaw.

About 1681 Thomas Sayer, justice of the peace, John Sayer, gent. Charles Daveney, William Palgrave, Maurice Kendal, of Gray's-Inn, and Bukenhams Nova, gents. and others, were returned as lords; but the whole was vested in John Sayer, of Eye, esq. the profits of one fifteenth part being employed as an endowment to the schoolmaster, who keeps school in St. James's chapel here.

This John is descended from an ancient family resident at Pulham, for several hundred years; and the old register, which begins in 1539, shews, that it was a numerous family, there being great number of their births, marriages, and burials, entered there; and it appears that the several branches have been all of them considerable owners in this parish. They have spelt their names differently in different ages, as Sawyer, Sayer, and Saer, which last we take to be their proper name, for Saer, or Saier, was anciently a common Christian Name.

John Sayer, of Eye, esq. was one of his majesty's justices of the peace for the county of Norfolk.

F 3

The

free foccage, and not by knights service. In 1656 there was above 6000 acres of land in the parishes of Pulham St. Mary, and St. Mary Magdalen.

The ancient survey of this county hath this:—
 “ In this town (for both Pulhams make but one town) is only the manor of Pulham, commonly called Pulham manor, which heretofore belonged to the bishopric (or church) of Ely, even from the time of the Saxons, about 800 years since, until the reign of queen Elizabeth, who took it into her own hands, with divers other manors, and is now in possession of the king (James I.) as her next and immediate heir. The king keepeth court and leet, and hath in it waif, felons goods, &c. hawking, hunting, fishing, &c. The extraordinary service of the tenants, reeveship, heyward-ship, and cullyer-ship; whoever are cullyers, or collectors, gather the rents of the other tenants, and pay them to the reeves, and they at the audit to the receiver; whoever is heyward calleth the court: there is one that holds his lands by *cornage**, that is, blowing a horn in the morning at the beginning

† The estate held by *cornage* is about 30l. per ann. all in a hedge, now owned by Dorothy, late widow Baker, now the wife of Robert Jermy, of Pulham: there belongs to it liberty to keep hounds, and follow the game any where in the manor; the service is performed at this time by one attending constantly to blow the horn before the court begins, for which the lord pays 4d. and gives him his dinner; this was the service as the lord's huntsman, and there are seven acres held by being my lord's hangman. William Akerman held seven acres by divers services, all which were to be remitted whenever a thief was hanged in the manor, he being obliged by his tenure to hang him, in lieu of all services for that year. Among the ancient customs of the manor we find, that the copyholders were forced to grind at one of the lord's mills, which occasioned the two mills to be lett at 5l. per ann. in those days, the tithe being allowed out of it. They were obliged to pay a fine to the lord for licence, or leave, to marry their sons and daughters, and to pay childwite if they had any bastards; they could not sell an ox, or male colt, of their own breed, without leave of their lord; the market and fairs then lett at three marks and an half a year, and divers of the tenants paid plough-shares for the fines of their lands.

ning of the court. The fines are certain of the copyhold lands, at six-pence an acre. This town hath the privileges of Ely as all other manors, holden by the same bishopric; none may arrest within their limits, besides their own bailiff, &c.

There was a market kept for a long time in Pulham Magdalen (the cross yet remaineth) purchased by the church of Ely, in the time of the Saxons, but now altogether decayed, by reason of the vicinity of of Harleston, a hamlet to Redenhall, whose market is on the same day.

There was formerly a manor here, called HEMENHALE'S, which had its rise in 1258, when Walter de Hemenhale had it from the bishop of Ely. In 1389 sir Robert de Hemenhale owned it, and settled it on sir George Felbrigge, knt. and others, his trustees.

Several others had manors here, which sir John de Heveningham, sen. knt. in 1425, died seized of; also of the free-tenements, capital messuages, and rents, called then the manor of Hemenhale's, Vauxe's, Sturmin's, and Sturmer's, in Pulham, Rive-shale, Dickleburgh, and Tivetshall, in Norfolk. But being all purchased in long since, there is no such manor now existing. The demesnes, or manor-house, called Vances, or Vauces, in Pulham, with a farm at Rushall, formerly part of the said manors, is settled for the propagation of the gospel in New England.

The dean and chapter of Ely have a small manor in this town, called WINSTON'S *cum* PULHAM, the quit rents of which are only 17s. 10d. per ann. It formerly belonged to the prior of Ely, who held part of it, of the gift of Osbert de Stradsfete.

Pulham-market hall is a good old house, inclosed with a high wall of brick, embattelled, and was formerly the mansion house of the Percies, a younger branch of the Northumberland family; in 1543, Mary, daughter of Henry Pecry, gent. was buried in St. Mary's church, at Pulham; in 1564, Alice Percy was married to John Buckenham, and it seems as if another daughter was married to a Brampton, for this estate was owned by William Brampton, of Letton, a strenuous man on the king's side in Kett's rebellion, by whom a great part of the present building was erected, and it continued in that family till a William Brampton sold it to Philip Rosier, who left it to Peter Rosier, his brother, high sheriff of Norfolk, who died here in 1743.

The arms of the earl of Northumberland, and those of Brampton impaling Leventhorp, are in the windows.

From the old register of Pulham St. Mary we find, that in 1550, Sir William Baldwin, and Audry Ellowe were married.

In 1585, Thomas Crane, gent. aged 70. In 1587, Alice his widow, aged 70, both buried in the church.

REDENHALL, cum HARLESTON. Redenhall gave name to, and is still the head town of the DEANRY, which contains twenty-five Parishes, and was taxed at two marks; the deans of which were collated by the bishop.

In 1311, William de Newport, priest, was presented to the rectory by Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk. He lies buried in the chancel under a stone robbed of an effigy in brass, in his proper habit;

habit; the brasses of the circumscription are picked out, but the remaining impressions shew that they were antient capitals; much may be read now, from which, and a copy taken long since, we have made out this:—*Igi : gift : fire : Will : de : Neupport : jadis : persone : de : Lestc : Eglise : prebend : de : Gredington : et : de : Welles : qui : Will : GGG —priet : pur : l'alme : que : Dieux : en : eit : mergi : amen :*

This advowson fell to the share of Margaret, one of the daughters and heiresses of Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, and was settled by the king's licence, and the pope's bull, on the prioress and nuns at Bungay, and was afterwards confirmed by Alice her sister and Sir Edward de Montacute, or Montague, her husband; and in 1349 it was appropriated by the bishop, to pay ten shillings to each nun, towards finding her clothes: the bishop had a pension of three marks and an half, and the new erected vicarage was taxed at thirteen marks: the bishop of Norwich, and his successors for ever, were to nominate a vicar every vacancy, and the prioress was obliged to present him. The rectory house, which was very large and moated in, with a great portal at the entrance, was then parted, and the south half assigned to the vicar, who was to have the manor and rents of assize, four acres by the house, and thirty acres of the demesnes of the church, being all that on the south side of the beck; and also to have a right of commonage on all the commons in Redenhall, with the altarage, &c. and the vicar was nominated by the bishop, and presented by the prioress.

In 1441, at the complaint of this vicar, the church was disappropriated, and became a rectory again,

on condition that the rector should pay a yearly pension of forty shillings to the prioress, which is still paid to the duke of Norfolk, in right of Bungay priory, by the rector; and that the bishop should for ever nominate to the prioress, and if she did not immediately present the person so nominated, the bishop might then collate him in his own right.

Sir Richard Wheatly, rector, was deprived of this, and Aldburgh, by queen Mary, for being a *married* man, and no favourer of the mass; and in 1603 the rector returned answer, that there were six hundred communicants in this parish: in 1745, Dec. 26, the Rev. Mr. John Nicolls, rector, was nominated by the bishop to Francis Loggin, gent. who presented him. He was resident chaplain to the merchants at Oporto, in Portugal; and in 1763, the Rev. Thomas Warburton was presented to this rectory of Redenhall, with the chapel of Harleston and Wortwell, by the earl of Effingham, on nomination of the bishop of Norwich. In the king's books it is, 20l. Redenhall rectory; yearly tenths, 2l. so that being not discharged of first fruits and tenths, it is incapable of augmentation; it was valued in the old taxation at thirty-five marks. Norwich Doomday says, that the archdeacon (Jacondensis) was patron; that the rector had a house and carucate of land, that it was after valued at forty marks. The religious concerned here, were the prioress of Carrowe, whose temporalities were taxed at 6s. 8d. the prior of Mendham, at 36s. 9d. ob. the prior of Weybrede, for meadows, at 23s. 6d. the abbot of Langley, at 8s. 6d. In 1390, Roger de Bois, knt. and others, aliened divers tenements in Harleston to the abbess of Brusyard. Hamon de Peccatum, or Pecche, gave ten shillings yearly rents in Herolstone to Bury abbey; Geoffry Pecche

20s. and Gilbert Pecche other rents. In 1307, Stephen de Brockdish, and Reginald his son, held eight acres of the prior of the Holy Trinity at Ipswich, by 6d. per ann. rent: in 1236, the rector took toll of all who passed through part of his church-yard. This town paid clear to every tenth, 11l. 13s. 4d.

The church is dedicated in honor of the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is a good regular building, having its north porch, nave, and two aisles, leaded, and chancel tiled. It was rebuilt of freestone by Thomas Brotherthorn, earl of Norfolk, and the chancel by William Newport, rector; but the noble square tower, which is very large and lofty, is of a much later foundation, it being a long time from its beginning to its finishing; it hath neat battlements, and four freestone spires on its top, and is the finest tower of any country parish church in the whole county; it was begun about 1460, and was carried on as the legacies and benefactions came in. John de-la Pole, lord of Wingfield castle, was a principal benefactor. Joan Bunning gave 3l. 6s. 8d. in 1469; in 1492, Thomas Bacon gave a legacy; in 1511, John Bacon; and it was finished about 1520, by Master Richard Shelton, then rector; and on the south-east spire there is an escallop shell and a tun, carved on the stone, as a rebus, or device for his name; Sir John Shelton, knt. was also a contributor to the work. In 1616, it was split from top to bottom by a tempest*, so as to be obliged to be anchored up as it now remains, tho' it was done so effectually, that it is scarce any damage to its beauty or strength. There was this carved on the north-west spire:—"This spire was demolished in the year 1680, and rebuilt in the year 1681,

* The Sessions then gave 13l. 13s. 6d. towards it.

1681. &c. A large plate of this fine church and tower is given in this work.

The arms of Brotherton and Mowbray, and the rose, the badge of Brotherton, and the leopard's face, the badge of de-la-Pole, are often on the stones. On the west doors are carved a hammer and horse-shoe, shoe and pincers, as rebusses for the names of Smith and Hammer Smith, probably the donors of them.— Here are eight melodious bells, on three of which are these verses:

- 2d. Bell. *Petrus ad eterne ducat nos pascua vite.*
 4. *Celi Solamen nobis det Deus. Amen. 1588.*
 6. *Stella Maria Maris succurre piissima nobis.*

The church is new seated throughout, and kept as neat and decent as we have seen any where, In the east chancel window, De-la-Pole quarters Wingfield in the garter. Erpingham in a garter. Brandon quartering Bouchier in a garter. In a south window, gul. an eagle displayed, or. and Brewse.

In 1504, Thomas Pyers, of Harleston, gave twenty marks to make the font new. The rood, or principal image of our Saviour on the cross, which stood on the rood-loft between the chancel, was a remarkable one in those days ; in 1506, Agnes Stanforth of Wortwalet hath this in her will ;—"Item, my marrying ring to the goode rood of Redenhale."

Joan, widow of Robert Bunning, who lies buried here, was a Benefactrix to the steeple, church, and Harleston chapel ; to all which she left legacies.

Orate

Orate pro animabus Ricardi Bacon, et Catherine, uxoris sue, qui obiit 11^o die Julij, A^o. Dom. MCCCCLXXXIII^o.
—The Bacons were interred at the upper end of the south aisle.

In the north chapel, which belongs to Gawdy-hall, are buried several of the families* to which that manor belonged; it seems to have been founded by the Brewses, for anciently the Gawdys buried in the middle aisle, where on a stone, under the portraitures of a man and a woman, was this:—*Orate pro animabus Johannis Gawdye, & Alicie uxoris sue, qui obiit 1^{mo}. die Maij, A^o. Dni. MDCX. quorum animabus propicietur Deus, Amen.*

On another,—*Pray for the soule of Mrs. Anne Gawdye in the peace of God, 1350 —Orate pro anima Agnetis Gawdye, que obiit xiv^o die Sept. anno Dni. MCCCCCX. cujus anime propicietur Deus, Amen.*

A black marble in the altar-rails—*To Mrs. Penelope D'Oyly, wife of the Rev. Mr. James D'Oyly, who died the 8th of October, 1721.*

The bodyes of John Rand, A. M. a late painful preacher of the gospel, at Redenhall cum Harleston, and of Anne,

* We find in the old church-wardens book, that in 1558 was received for sir Thomas Gawdy's grave 6s. 8d. In 1693 a feoffment made of the chapel and chambers, and town-close, which contained about three acres, and was lett at 4l. per ann. said to be given by the Gawdys, the profits to be given to the poor every Christmas. The hamlet of Wortwell was answerable for a fourth part of all charges, and it intercommons with Aldburgh, and hath each a drift; but there are no commons to Redenhall. In 1461 the chancel was levelled, and the organ case pulled down. In 1464 the crosses at the end of the chapels were taken down, and the pictures in the chancel defaced. In 1761 paid the ringers for ringing when the king passed by.

Anne, his wife, and Elizabeth, their daughter, Sept. 27,
1659. Here expect the resurrection.

Three temples of the Holy Ghost,
Ruin'd by death, ly here as lost;
St. John's fell first, St. Anne's next year,
Then St. Elizabeth fell here;
Yet a few dayes, and thes againe,
Christ will re-build and in them reigne†.

The north vestry is leaded, and the north chapel tiled, in which is an altar-tomb for sir Thomas Gawdy, buried here in 1588. The roof is adorned with spread eagles. There is an hatchment with the crest and arms of Wogan, impaling Sandcroft.

Several memorials are in the nave, in which stands a fine large brass eagle. Two sons of Henry Fenn, of Redinghall, gent. Tobias, son of Tobias Frere, gent. and Eliabeth, his sister. Also, Tobias Frere, esq. February 6, 1655.

On a neat mural monument against the south wall, at the west end of the nave,—*In piam memoriam Tobia Frere, armigeri, vidua ipsi superstes, Domina Susanna Frere, una cum filio, Tobia, monumentum hoc amoris et officij insigne statui curaverunt, obiit autem 66 agens. Febr. 6°. anno Dni. 1655.*

*Ne quis succumbat fato, cedatve sepulchro,
Non pietas, virtus, non medicina valet;
Cuique est dicta dies, salix qui tempora vitæ
Sic agit, ut sit ei, grata suprema dies.*

On

† What a composition of presumptuous superstition is here? Three modern saints in one church lie buried.—*O tempora! O mores!*

On altar-tombs on the south side of the church-yard.—*John Dove, clerk, obiit Martij 26, A. D. 1690, æt. 46*—*Edward Hart, Sept. 22, 1731.*—*Stephen Freeman, of Harleston, gent. obiit anno æt. suæ 42, A.D. 1684.*

Inscriptions are on head-stones,—*To Hannah Wotton, March 12, 1715, æt. 48.*—*Fleetwood Wotton, gent. her husband, Jan. 17, 1720, æt. 68.*

Elizabetha Sara Kerrich, filia Gualteri et Annæ, ob. 22 die Apr. 1726, æt. suæ 25.

Sub hoc marmore reconduntur cineres Gualteri Kerrich, qui mortem obiit Jan. 8, 1703, ætatis vero suæ 38º.

Thomas Baylie, gent. Nov. 20, 1717, æt. 72.—*Mary, his wife, 1701, æt. 61, June 21.*

The church is situate near the midst of the parish, so that it might be equal to the tenants of the several manors, being equi-distant also from its two principal hamlets of Harleston, and Wortwell, near a mile from each.

Redenhall takes its name from* Rada, the dean, who was lord in the time of Edward the Confessor, and held it of Edric, the antecessor of Robert Malet, lord of the honor of Eye. It was then 3l. per ann. but rose to 8l. value, and was a mile and an half long, half a mile and three perches broad, and paid 10d. to the Dane gelt. It extended into Alburgh and Starston; there were twenty free-men in this town, whose rents were 4l. per ann. but they were after separated from this manor, and added to earl Ralf's hundred

* Radanahalla, Doomsday-book.

hundred of Earsham. Ivo Tallebois, after the earl's forfeiture, got them for some time, but being restored, they have continued ever since with the hundred.

A free-man of Edric's had a part of the town, which the falconer to the earl afterwards held, and his manor, called HAWKER'S, was free from all services to the capital hall, or manor, and afterwards held of the king, under Godric; as for the free-men, and superior jurisdiction of the whole town, they all belonged to bishop Stigand, by him were forfeited to the king, who committed the care of them to William de Noiers, and they have ever since passed with the hundred.

There are now only two lords here; Redenhall *cum* Harleston, the lect, hundred-court, market, fairs, tolls, free-warren, and all superior jurisdiction of the whole town, belong to his grace the duke of Norfolk, and have passed with the earls and dukes of Norfolk, along with Forncet manor.

The other manors are now joined, and belong to John Wogan, of Gawdy-hall, esq. viz. the manors of Redenhall, Coldham-hall, Holbrook-hall, Merks, and Hawker's. They were all in the Bigots as one manor, and by them parted and sold to different persons.

REDENHALL MANOR, and half the advowson, was owned by Henry de Agneux, or Anews, and half by Richard de Argentine, in the time of Henry II. This Henry in 1196 being a rebel to Richard I. that king seized all his lands, and granted them for two hundred marks to Ralph de Lenham; and in 1199 Walter himself confirmed the grant. In 1247 Sir Nicholas de Lenham was lord, and in 1256 had a charter

charter for free-warren here, upon which Roger le Bigot, earl of Norfolk, lord of the hundred, and superior lord of the fee of the whole town, sued him, and seized on this manor, because he had leased it to the queen for sixteen years, whose attornies the earl ejected, the manor being held of him by 5l. yearly rent, and other services; and though the lease was made to the queen, it was in effect the same as if it had been to the king, so that no distress could be taken; but upon the king's granting him letters patent that the lease should not be to the *dis-herison* of him, or his heirs, but that he might distrain for the rents and services, the earl confirmed it. In 1257 this sir Nicholas sold all his possessions here to Peter de Sudaudia, or Savoy.

In 1261 Henry III. says, that his beloved uncle, Master Peter de Savoy, surrendered into his hands to the use of prince Edward, his eldest son, the manors of Redenhall, &c. and the king confirmed them to the prince and his heirs, and so to the kings of England for ever; but the prince granted it with his father's consent to Nicholas de Yatingdon, and his heirs, to be held by the service of two fees.

The other moiety continued in the Argentein family; though in 1206 William de Curcun gave twenty marks to king John to have it.

In 1281 Giles de Argentein held here and in Thirning four fees of Richmond honor; his grandfather, Richard, having married Joan, widow of Roger de Lenham, and this Giles conveyed it to Master Henry de Branteston, who had the whole manor, and moiety of the advowson.

G Osbert

Osbert de Clinton, lord here in 1317, conveyed it from Joan and her heirs to Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, marshal of England, and his heirs; who in 1325 settled it on trustees, for Alice, one of his daughters and coheiresses, married to sir Edward de Montacute, or Montague, who owned it in 1344, and mortgaged it to John de Coloigne, and Thomas de Holbech, merchants, of London, by the king's patent and licence; and in 1360 Edward, son of Edward Montague, and Alice, his wife, one of the daughters and heiresses of Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, held it; and in 1365, at the death of Edward Montague, Etheldred, his sister, had it. In 1390 she married sir Hugh Strauley, knt. it after, in 1414, belonged to William De-la-Pole, earl of Suffolk, and lord of Wingfield castle; and in 1485 William Catesbie owned it, who was attainted in the 1st of Henry VII. and that king granted it to sir William Norreys, knt. In 1558 it was granted to Tipper and Dawe, and soon after belonged to the Gawdys, and so it came joined to the manor of HOLEBROOK, or Gawdy-hall, which was held of the honor of Richmond at half a fee. This anciently belonged to the Turbeviles, of Devonshire, and Henry de Turbeville was lord in 1223; it took its name from the situation of the manor-house, being in a hole by the brook side, the hills adjoining still retaining the name of Holebrook Hills, and are on the left hand of the road leading from Harleston to Yarmouth, near to Wortwell Dove; but this was pulled down by the Gawdys when the house, called Gawdy-hall, was built, in which John Wogan, esq. the present lord, now dwells.

In 1230 Walter de Turbeville was lord; he served Henry III. with three knights, for one whole year. to Poitou, to be released of 150 marks due to that king.

king. In 1259 Roger de Thirkelby, one of the justices itinerant, was lord here. In 1313 Robert Tende-ville, of Harleston, seems to have had it; and probably it continued in this family a whole century, for in 1414 Richard Tyndale, of Dean, in Northamptonshire, owned it; it continued in the family till 1542, and then Thomas Tyndale, and Osbert Mundeford, esqrs. conveyed it Robert Bacon, of Speckeshall, esq. and in 1551 the title was completed. In 1570 his son and heir, Edward Bacon, esq. had it, and sold it to Thomas Gawdy, esq. and so it became joined to the MANOR OF COLDHAM-HALL, which was held of the earls of Norfolk, and to which the moiety of the advowson belonged, till sold from it. In 1259 Warine de Redenhall, lord of it, impleaded Roger Bigor, earl of Norfolk, to permit him to enjoy certain liberties belonging to this manor, which he held of him. In 1303 Simon de Coldham, of Redenhall, (from whom it took its present name) sold the moiety of the advowson which belonged to it, and the manor, (except an hundred shillings, land, and some rents, afterwards called Merk's manor) to sir William de Burgis, knt. and in 1309 the said sir William, and Thomas de Burgis, sold the moiety of the advowson to Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, (patron of the other moiety) and the manor to John de Riveshale, or Rushall. It afterwards belonged to the De-la-Poles, and continued in the earls of Suffolk till the attainder of Charles duke of Suffolk; and in 1551 was granted by Philip and Mary to Edward lord North, and afterwards it was purchased by the Gawdys.

In 1510 John Gawdy, of Harleston, was buried in Redenhall church.

In 1523 Thomas Gawdy, of Wortwell, gent. obtained a manumission of all his lands in Mendham,

Metfield, and Witherdale, held of the manors of Metfield priory, and King's-hall, of the prior of Mendham.

In 1545 Thomas Gawdy, of Redenhall, sen. and in 1556 Thomas Gawdy, jun. esq. of Harleston, were buried in Redenhall church.

In 1570, Thomas, the eldest son of the latter, purchased Weybrede manor of William Calthorpe, esq. and in 1582 he sold this manor to sir Thomas Gawdy, knt. he was one of the king's judges. but dying in 1588 was buried here, being seised of Claxton, Hellington, Rockland, Poringland, &c. leaving Henry Gawdy, esq. his son and heir; and in 1615 sir Henry and sir Clipesby Gawdy, knts. were lords. In 1633 sir Thomas Gawdy, knt. and it was mortgaged by Charles Gawdy, esq. to Tobias Frere, who afterwards purchased it. In 1654 he was one of the justices of peace for Norfolk, a sequestrator, and member in parliament, and was buried here in 1655, leaving Suffannah, his widow, and Tobias, his son and heir; his widow married John Wogan, esq. who was lord here in 1688; and now John Wogan, esq. is lord of all the aforesaid manors, which are joined with the MANOR of MERKS, which was part of Coldham-hall manor, that continued in the Redenhall family as aforesaid, and was sold to John de Marleburgh, of whom John de Redenhall purchased it in 1313, and held it of the earl of Norfolk at the eighth part of a fee; it came after, 1358, to James Ormond, earl of Wilts, and at his attainder to the crown. It was granted by Edward IV. with several manors in Suffolk, to sir Thomas Waldegrave; and passing through divers hands in the year 1551, it was purchased by Robert Bacon, and joined as aforesaid.

HAWKER'S MANOR first belonged to Edric, of whom it was held in the Confessor's time by one of his free-men, when it was worth 20s. per ann. After the conquest Ralph Guader, or Wayet, earl of Norfolk, had it, and gave it, to be held free of his capital manor, to Roger, his *hawker*, or falconer, who held it free from all service but that of falconer : when the king had the capital manor by earl Ralph's forfeiture, and when Godric, to whom he had intrusted the care of it, claimed services of him, he appealed to the king (of whom he held it freely) as his protector, and was discharged accordingly ; from this tenure the manor and lords also took their names. The record, called *Testa de Nevil*, tells us, that Warine le Oftricer, or Hawker, son of the said Roger, held it by the grand serjeanty of keeping a goss-hawk for the king's use, and carrying it every year to the king at his majesty's cost. This Warine added much to the manor, by purchase from Maud de Beauchamp, in 1239†. In 1380 the manor-house had 144 acres of demesne, and the manor was found to extend into Aldburgh, and other adjacent towns. Soon after, 1436, it passed to Robert Clifton, cousin to sir John Clifton, of Buckenham-castle, from which time it passed with Topcroft, and Denton ; all which in 1481 Thomas Brewse, in right of Elizabeth, his wife, had assigned to him as parcel of the lands of Robert de Clifton : it continued with the said manors till 1621, and in that year John Brewse, gent. sold his manor of Hawker's, *cum* Shacklock's, to Tobias Frere, esq. and in 1627 John Brewse, and Tobias Frere, esqrs. conveyed it to sir Clipesby Gawdy, knt. and so it became joined to the other manors.

G 3 WORTWELL

* This family of the Hawkers were very numerous, and many of them had good estates here, and elsewhere.

WORTWELL MANOR was soon after the conquest in a family called Peccatum, or Pecche. In 1196 Gilbert Pecche a benefactor to Bury abbey, held two fees of that house in Wortwell, Harleston, and Drinkston, in Suffolk. In 1298 it belonged to William Carliol, and the manor then extended into Aldburgh: this family lived in the manor-house for several descents. In 1428 Robert Warner was lord, in which family it continued till 1546, when John, third son to Brian Holland, of Wortwell, married Ann, daughter and heiress of Robert Warner, of Wingfield, with whom he had this manor: this John came and settled at Wortwell-hall, and purchased the greatest part (if not the whole) of the copyhold: it hath continued in this family till this day, it being now owned by the heirs of the late sir William Holland, bart.

HARLESTON, anciently called Herolf'ston, and Herolveston, from Herolf, one of the Danish leaders that came with Swain, king of Denmark, into Britain, about the year 1010, in order to subdue the East-Angles, and bring them under their power; which they did so effectually, as to seize their possessions; and it is most likely that Herolf settled here, and gave name to the place, which is, and always was, of small extent, for it never contained more than twenty-five acres of land in its bounds, which at the Conqueror's survey was divided (as it now continues) into two parts, thirteen acres of it, held by Frodo, being added to Mendham, to which it now belongs, as the other twelve do to the hundred of Earsham, on which the chapel and town now stand, being the Middle-row only; the rest (though commonly called Harleston) being in the parish of Redenhall, to which this is a chapel of ease, and hamlet.

The

The manor always attended the hundred of Earsham, and still continues with it, in the Norfolk family, and the houses are all copyhold, except those called the stone-houses, which are free. On this spot of ground formerly stood Herolf's stone, or cross, where Richard de Herolveston, about 1109. settled; and took his surname from hence; from whom descended the famous sir John Herolveston, so often mentioned in our English Chronicles for his valiant prowess in martial exploits, and particularly for being a great instrument in quelling the grand rebellion in these counties in the time of Richard II. of whom much may be seen in Froissart, Holingshed, and Stowe's Chronicles: from him descended the family of the Harlestons, of good account in both counties. They had estates in Shimpling, in Suffolk, settled at Norwich, and afterwards at Mattishall, in Norfolk; archbishop Parker married one of them.

This town hath a weekly market on Wednesday, and two fairs in a year; one is held on Midsummer-day, being the nativity of St. John the Baptist, to whom the chapel is dedicated, so that this is the feast, wake, or dedication day; and the other was granted by Henry III. in the year 1259, to Roger le Bigot, earl of Norfolk, and marshal of England, to last eight days, viz. the vigil, and day of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, and six days after. The said earl had a hundred-court held here every three weeks, and the toll of the market and fairs, assize of bread and ale, free-warren, and waif.

In 1570 there was a rebellion intended to have been begun here.

The chapel of St. John the Baptist was a free chapel, founded, in all probability, by sir John de Herolfston,

Herolfston, for his own use; it never had any institution, but was always dependent upon its mother church at Redenhall, the rector of which serves here one part of the day every Sunday; it hath administration of both sacraments belonging to it, but not burial; the street surrounds it; so that there is no convenience for that purpose. At the east end is the market-cross, which, with the chapel, was rebuilt about 1726*. It is tiled, hath one bell, and a good clock in a sort of a cupola, for there is no tower.

In 1688, being almost useless, and deserted for want of fit endowment, that pious and charitable prelate, William Sandcroft, archbishop of Canterbury, settled on the master, fellows, and scholars, of Emanuel college, in Cambridge, 54l. per ann. payable quarterly out of the hereditary revenues of the exchequer, in trust and special confidence that they will receive it, and constantly nominate a chaplain and schoolmaster, and pay it so received to him, "Upon condition, and so long as he the said chaplain, and chaplains, or schoolmaster, and schoolmasters, for the time being, shall perform and celebrate publicly in the said chapel at Harleston aforesaid the daily office of Divine service, morning and evening, on every day of the week throughout the year (except only the Lord's days, when the inhabitants of Harleston are bound to repair to the mother church of Redenhall aforesaid) according

* Being a free chapel was dissolved by the statute of Edward VI. and became afterwards vested in the inhabitants, and was by them settled on trustees, to their use. In 1726, it was repaired at the expence of 1100l. seven hundred of which was raised in the parish by contribution only, and the rest by the neighbouring gentlemen. Part of it was formerly made a market-cross, and chambers over it, but the whole is now laid into the chapel as at first, and a cross built at its east end.

“ to the Liturgy of the Church of England by law
 “ established ; and also to hold and keep a public
 “ school there, for the education of youth, in some
 “ convenient place near the said chapel, which the
 “ inhabitants of Harleston aforesaid, in consideration
 “ of the great benefit which by this donation may
 “ accrue to them and their-children, are desired from
 “ time to time to provide ; and particularly, besides
 “ the common grounds of learning, shall teach and
 “ instruct all his scholars in that excellent Catechism
 “ of the church of England, and cause them to get
 “ the same perfectly by heart, together with the Ni-
 “ cene, and Athanasian Creeds ; the Te Deum, and
 “ such other prayers, psalms, and hymns, as are
 “ contained in the Primmer, and common Prayer-
 “ book, and are fit for every good Christian to learn
 “ and use ; and also to take care, that all the scho-
 “ lars whom he shall undertake to teach be con-
 “ stantly present, with himself, at the prayers of the
 “ church, whenever they shall be publicly performed
 “ in the said chapel, and behave themselves soberly
 “ and piously there, and be taught to use such ges-
 “ tures, and make such answers as the church pre-
 “ scribes.” The master and fellows, under their col-
 lege seal, are for ever to nominate some able and
 competent person in *holy orders*, to be licensed by
 the bishop to read prayers, and teach school here.

The present chaplain and schoolmaster was nomi-
 nated by the master and fellows, receives the annual
 salary, and keeps school in a house provided for that
 purpose by the inhabitants.

Other benefactions here are,—A rent charge of
 40s. per ann. payable out of the profits of the bul-
 lock fair held here, and the annual interest of 200l.
 given by Mr. Dove, for a schoolmaster to teach poor
 boys

boys to read, and write, with which an estate is purchased in Rushall, and the profits are enjoyed by the schoolmaster.

This hamlet is in the liberty of the duke of Norfolk, as well as Redenhall.

RUSHALL, RIVESSALLA, or REEVE'S-HALL, so called from the Prepositus, or Reeve of the hundred, that anciently dwelt there, was in three parts; the first (which belonged to bishop Stigand) was seized by the conqueror, and was afterwards granted to the Bigots, and hath attended the manor and hundred of Earsham to this time: his grace the duke of Norfolk keeping leet here, is lord paramount in right of the hundred. In 1285, Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, had free-warren allowed him here. The second was,

RUSHALL MANOR, which before the confessor's time belonged to Bury abbey, who infeoffed Henry in it, but at the conquest it was given to Ralph Peverel, of whom Warincus held it, it being then of 3l. per ann. value. The town was then half a mile long, and five furlongs broad, and paid 8d. geld.

The third part belonged to Stigand, of whom Brictric, a Dane, held it; the conqueror gave it to Robert Fitz-Corbun, of whom Gunfrid held it at the survey; this was afterwards divided into many parts, and constituted the manors called Vauce's, Sturmer's, Branche's, St. Faith's, and Langley, or the rectory manor.

RUSHALL-HALL, or the capital manor, was held of the honor of Peverel at one fee, by Warincus, whose successor, Alan, assumed the name of Riveshale, or Rushall,

Rushall, from this his lordship; his son, Miles de Riveshale lord here, gave in free alms to the monks at Norwich; he was succeeded by Sir Henry de Riveshale, knt. who in 1263 obtained a charter of free-warren for this manor, and that of Semere in Suffolk, of Henry III. His grandson, John de Riveshale, left Winesia, his daughter, sole heiress, who held it at one fee in 1345, and by her marriage with Sir Oliver Withe, carried it out of the Riveshale family. Sir Oliver Withe being thus possessed of this, purchased the other manors of Vauce's, Branche's, and Sturmyn's, in this town and Pulham, and joined them to Rushall-hall, the demesnes of them being excepted, having passed separate to this day, the demesnes of Branche's in Rushall making one farm and those in Pulham another, both which are now known by their antient names.

From the Withes they came to the Carbonels, Sir Robert Carbonel being the first lord of that family, whose son, Sir John Carbonel, knt. possessed them in 1421, and in 1425 Sir John Heveningham sen. knt. owned them; they after passed thro' the Grooses and Calthorpes; and in 1565 Thomas Beaumont, and Thomas Gooch, sold the manors of Rushall-hall, Vauce's, or Vauce's, Sturmyn's, and Branche's, in Rushall, Pulham, Dickleburgh, Harleston, Redenhall, and Difs, to Thomas Crane, and his heirs. In 1571 Anthony Tebold had it, it afterwards was purchased by the Pettus family, and hath continued in it some time, the heirs of Sir Horatio Pettus, bart. of Rackheath, being the present proprietors, but hold no court, the whole being either purchased in, or manumised, and the demesnes are about 50l. per ann.

The PRIORY is a farm-house, owned by the Baldards of Mettingham; it is so called as belonging antiently

aniently to the priory of Buckenham, to which it was given by Richard de Sengles, together with his whole tenement, in Rushall, and Lincroft a hamlet thereto.

In 1401 the prior of Buckenham held it at the fourth part of a fee, and was taxed for his temporalities at 3l. 2s. At the dissolution it went to the crown, and was granted by Philip and Mary to Thomas Gawdye, and was held by Anthony Gawdye, who conveyed it to Sir Bassingbourn Gawdye, knt.

The RECTORY, or LANGLEY MANOR, consisted of two parts, the first was the manor originally belonging to the rectory before its appropriation; the other was a manor owned by Wulnard Betekarl, and after by Eustace de Hoe, whose daughter, Imbria, before 1195, was married to Baldwin de Bures, the then lord. This was after given to the abbot of Langley, and joined to the impropriation; but the whole hath been long since manumised, and no court is now kept for these manors. The abbot held it at half a fee of Horsford, and so of Eye honor, and was taxed for his temporalities at 3l. 6s. This was given in divers parcels to this abbey; and in 1427 the abbot of Langley was prosecuted for purchasing and holding 200 acres of land in Rushall of lay fee, but upon proving that all his lay-fees here were joined to his spiritual impropriate rectory, and taxed with it as spirituals, and that he was celled for it with the clergy, he was acquitted.

The Prior of St. Faith, at Horsham, had a quarter of a fee of the founder's gift in this parish, held of the honor of Eye, it was first taxed at 30s. after, as spirituals, at 40s. and so paid 4s. tenths,
all

all the tithes belonging to it being paid to St. Faith's, and not to the rector, or vicar. This house was taxed at 25s. 5d. for their temporalities in Rushall. Being vested in the crown, Henry VIII. in the 36th year of his reign, granted all the lands, rents, and possessions belonging to the priory of Horsham, late in the tenure of Catherine Branche, to John Caryl, and his heirs.

The Rectory was given to the abbey of Langley, and appropriated to that house. In the old taxation, the abbot of Langley was taxed for his manor and lands at six marks; the rectory was valued at fifteen, and in the new valuation at twenty-six marks. There was a house, manor, and carucate of land before the impropriation; the vicarage endowed was valued at five marks, but was not taxed; the vicarage is discharged of first fruits and tenths, and is capable of augmentation; it stands thus in the king's books:—4l. Rushall vicarage,—30l. clear yearly value.

In 1548 Edward VI. granted to John Pykarel, and John Barnard, the tithes, glebes, &c. with the appurtenances of Rushall rectory, late parcel of Langley monastery, paying 20s. per ann. to the vicar; in the time of Queen Elizabeth, a confirmation of it passed to the Cleres; and in 1603 Sir Edward presented to the vicarage, as an appurtenant to the rectory; it was afterwards conveyed to Thomas Sherwood, who in the reign of James I. sold about seventy acres, with the parsonage house, to one Ket, but excepted the tithes, &c. and fixed 6s. 8d. per ann. to the vicar for his dividend of the 20s. a year; it belonged after that to the Redes, and then to William Long, in right of his wife, and he sold it to the Bransbys, and being sold by James Bransby, Esq.

Esq. of Shottisham, to Emmanuel college, in Cambridge, they are now rented of that society at 85l. 10s. per ann. The small tithes belong to the vicar.

In 1603 there were ninety-two communicants in the parish. In 1620, John Thirleby was presented by the crown, and was the last vicar, it being served by sequestration 'til the year 1733, and in 1764 the Rev. John Stockdale was presented to this vicarage by James Bransby Esq.—and again in 1774.

The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, hath a steeple round at bottom and octangular at top, and only one bell, the nave, chancel, and south porch are tiled. There was a small chapel on the north side of the nave, which is now demolished, in which there was an altar, image, and guild held, all in the honor of the Holy Trinity, to sustain which there was a close given at Bonwell-Croft*.—The stone of John Braunch lies in the middle of it, but hath lost an effigy in armour standing on a lion, and four shields; he had good estates in the town.

There are no copyholds but such as are held of the manors that are in other places and extend hither, as Semere's, in Mendham, Gunshaw's, in Starston, Manclerk's, in Dickleburgh, &c.

STARSTON, STERSTON, OF STERES-TOWN, was anciently in many parts; the head manor belonged to Bury abbey, and was infeoffed by the abbot in Roger Bigot, who obtained of the king a free-man and his services

* These lands contain six acres, lying in three pieces, and are in feoffices hands to repair the church with the profits. There is also a town-house for the poor. There are two pieces of land belonging to Needham that lie in this town,

services here, which belonged to the monastery at Ely; and another part, which was Stigand's, he had as belonging to his manor of Earsham; all which he left to his successors, and they continued in his family till one of them granted off two fees, which made two manors, to be held of the manor of Forncet, and reserved the superior jurisdiction, leet, and advowson with liberty of warren, &c. to his heirs; all which have passed, and now continue (except the advowson with the manor, and hundred of Earsham, in the duke of Norfolk, lord thereof, the chief part of the town being free suitors to the hundred-court at Harleston.

The town at the Conqueror's survey was a mile and five furlongs long, and five furlongs broad, and paid 13d. gelt.

STARSTON-HALL MANOR being granted from the Bigots to be held of Forncet at one fee, was owned by Bartholomew Evereus, or Devereux, and was soon after, 1308, sold to James Herwardestoke. John de Herwardestoke, citizen of London, sold it to Robert de Bumpstead, citizen of Norwich; and his sons sold it to Roger Pycot; whose son, sir Bartholomew Pycot, knt. was lord in 1373. Thomas Pycot, esq. was lord in 1432, and left the manor at his death vested in trustees for the use of his daughters and heiresses, who seem to have married Hugh Austyn, of Framlingham-castle, gent. Hamon le Strange, esq. of the king's household; Robert Bernard, esq. and Christopher Calthorpe, esq. held his first court in 1515, in right of his wife. Sir James Calthorpe, of Cockthorpe, in the hundred of North Greenhoe, knt. was lord in 1610; it was then the chief manor in the town, and had a convenient house belonging to it; it afterwards belonged to the Wiltons, of Wilby, in the

the hundred of Shropham, was mortgaged to John Strange, of Red-Lion-Square, and is since owned by Mr. Mills, of London.

BRESINGHAM'S MANOR takes its name from its ancient lords; Walter de Bresingham was lord about 1235, and it continued in the family till 1462, when John Bresingham, esq. died, and was buried in Brockdish church; he left the manor to Elizabeth, daughter of William Grice, of Brockdish, his wife, and her heirs; it continued in the Grices till they sold it to the Pycots, or Pigots; and in 1578 William Pycot was lord, who sold it to Bartholomew Cotton, esq. In his time it was returned to have a house, demesnes, and royalties, but no copyhold tenants, nor court baron, the whole being manumised, and the freeholders belonging to it paid but 19s. per ann. free rents: he died June 21, 1613, aged 76, and lies buried under a sumptuous monument on the north side of the chancel; his effigy, with a ruff about his neck, is kneeling at a desk, with his crest and armorial bearing.

An altar-tomb, with Cotton's arms,—*To John Luckin Cotton, gent. who (being about 25 years of age) was interred Jan. 17, 1654, and of his two infant sons.*—Several others of this family lie buried in the chancel.

In 1689 Robert King, of Great Thurlow, in Suffolk, in right of his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Steward, of Barton-Mills, in Suffolk, was lord here, and lived in 1705; his son, Thomas, about 1698, was killed by Sir Sewster Peyton, bart. but by a sister and heir of Sir John Cordel left one son; she died his widow in 1706.

Starston-Place is now owned by Waldegrave Pelham, esq. and is a good House, near the church.

BECKHALL MANOR is so called from the scite of it (long since demolished) being near the beck, or rivulet, that runs through this village. It was very anciently in William de Bovile's hands, who held it at one fee of Forncet manor. In 1296 William de Ingham had it; and after, 1358, it passed with Hingham, in the hundred of Happing, to the Stapletons. In 1418 sir Miles Stapleton, knt. was lord, and it continued in the family till 1504, when Dame Elizabeth Fortescue, daughter and heiress of sir Miles Stapleton, first the wife of sir William Calthorpe, after of sir John Fortescue, lord chief justice, and lastly of sir Edward Howard (while Fortescue's widow) feuled it on the heirs of her body, and so it came to the Calthorpes, afterwards to the Gawdys, and was joined by the Cottons to Bressingham manor.

BOUTON's, or BOLTON's MANOR, passed in a great measure like the manor of the same name in Hardwick. In 1285 William le Claver had it; whose grand-daughter and heiress, Maud, married Walter de Burwood. It was sold by William Greham, esq. to Peter Gleane, of Norwich, at which time it had no house, but several copyhold tenants belonging to it.

GUNSHAW's MANOR, in Starston, Needham, &c. was anciently held by William de Arches, of John de Mendham, at half a fee; it formerly belonged to the Heylocks, and was purchased of the Wisemans about the time of Charles I. by Mr. Stiles, of Codenham, whose wife married a second husband, and held it for life. It hath a farm-house, and about 50l. per ann. besides the royalty, and many copyhold tenants. It

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is

is now (Blomefield) owned by Mr. Nun, of Southwold, in Suffolk.

The several manors of Seymer's, and Huntingfield's, in Mendham; Gunshaws, and But's, in Needham, Pulham, &c. and Payone's, in Denton, extend hither.

The church of Starston is dedicated to St. Margaret. The rector hath a good house, and about forty-three acres of glebe; there are no customs, all tithes being due in their proper kind; it is undischarged of tenths and first fruits, and stands thus in the king's books:—15l. Starston rectory.—11. 10s. yearly tenths.—In the old value it was valued at thirty marks, and the town paid clear to every tenth 3l. 15s.

The monks of Thetford had lands here, and the tithes arising therefrom were anciently valued at 20s. but were afterwards compounded for perpetually at 6s. per ann. and in 1612 was paid by the rector to the lord of Aflacton manor, in right of Thetford priory; at the same time also the rector paid a pension of 3s. 4d. to Mendham priory, as a perpetual composition for the tithes of that part of their manor of Huntingfield's which extended hither, for which lands that house was taxed 24s. 2d. ob.

The prior of Norwich had temporals in the parish, taxed at 5s. 10d. and the prioress of Carrowe at 14d. The advowson continued in the dukes of Norfolk till 1699.

In 1603 the rector returned 120 communicants in the parish.

There

There is a neat monument, with the crest and arms of Arrowsmith, impaling Smith of Cratfield.—*Thomas Arrowsmith, M. A. rector of this parish and Aldburgh 30 years; he died March 28, 1729, aged 55.*

In 1725, August 15, Philip Williams, S. T. B. fellow, and some time president of St. John's college, Cambridge, was presented by sir Rowland Hill, bart. by purchase from the duke of Norfolk, he being obliged to present a fellow of St. John's college, in Cambridge; and in 1769 the Rev. Thomas Frampton, D. D. was presented to the rectory by sir Rowland Hill, bart. of Hawkstone, in Shropshire.

The tower is square, and hath five bells: the nave is leaded, and the south porch and chancel are tiled.

On a brass by the church door,—*William Bugott, gentleman, died Nov. 1580.*

In 1740 Thomas Aldous, a poor man, was buried here, aged 106 years.

Twenty shillings a year is paid to the use of the poor, out of the estate of John Smith, late of Harleston, butcher, and since owned by Francis Bouterit, of St. James's, Suffolk.

There is a town-house for four families, and an inconsiderable quantity of town land.

THORPE-ABBOTS, so called to distinguish it from other villages of this name, it being for many ages part of the possessions of the abbot of Bury, and of those manors that were appropriated to the abbot's own use; and from its being much larger than the other neighbouring villa, called *Thorpe Parva*, in

Difs hundred, it is often named Thorpe *Magna*, and of late years Thorpe Cornwallis, from its lords.

This town belonged to Ailfric bishop of Elmham, in the time of king Edgar, who gave it to Bury abbey, to which it belonged ever since, to its dissolution, the abbots of that house being always lords and patrons.

At the survey the manor was seven furlongs long, and six broad, and paid 4d. gelt, or tax. The church had twelve acres of glebe, then worth 2s. a year, the abbot had the soc, or superior jurisdiction here, exempt from the hundred, except the services of two free-men, which belonged to Earsham; and in all returns made to the king, the abbot is said to hold this town as part of his barony.

In 1285 Roger Bigot, earl of Norfolk, as lord of Earsham hundred, claimed free-warren here, but it was not allowed him, the abbot recovering it against him, proving by Domesday-book that he was sole lord, and had the paramountship of Thorpe in right of his church, exempt from the hundred. About this time Robert de Thorpe held it by lease, for life, from the abbot, and it appears that he had a good estate in the town, for in 1271 he purchased of Arnold de Bedingfield several lands here, and in Billingsford.

At the dissolution it was bought of Henry VIII.* by Giles Bridges, esq. citizen and draper of London, son

* There was a fee-farm rent reserved to the Crown of 10l. 12s. 8d. per ann. which was granted among other fee-farm rents by king William to the lord Ossulston, afterwards earl of Tankerville, and is now paid to the honorable Horatio Walpole.

son of sir John Bridges, knt. lord-mayor of London : this Giles conveyed it to Robert Southwell, esq. who in 1546 sold it to Thomas Cornwallis, esq. and his heirs ; he was afterwards knighted, and became a man of great figure and reputation. [An account of him and his descendents (who have been lords here) may be seen in the fourth volume of the Peerage, edit. London, 1741, p. 175.] The right honorable Charles Cornwallis, earl Cornwallis of Eye, viscount Brome, and baronet, constable of the Tower of London, lord lieutenant of the Tower Hamlets, lieutenant general of his majesty's forces, and colonel of the 33d regiment of foot, is now lord and patron, and hath the leet here. His lordship hath served in America with great honor ;—a circumstance which does not often occur in a state of *political* war-fare.

The rectory stands thus in the king's book :—6l. Thorpe-Abbots rectory,—49l. clear yearly value.—And being discharged of first fruits and tenths, is capable of augmentation.

In Doomsday-book we find that the church is dedicated to All Saints, and the rector had a house and nine acres of land, &c. that were valued at fifteen marks. The vicarage was dissolved, and fell into the rectory.

The abbot of Bury was taxed for his temporalities here, viz. the manor, demesnes, mill, *silva cedua*, &c. at 20l. 4s. 1d. and the village paid 36s. clear to every tenth.

The rectors were presented by the abbots of Bury from 1303 to 1538.

In

In 1603 the rector returned sixty-three communicants ; and in 1607 the rector was presented by Mary countess of Bath, younger daughter of sir Thomas Cornwallis, knt. on whom he had settled this town for life.

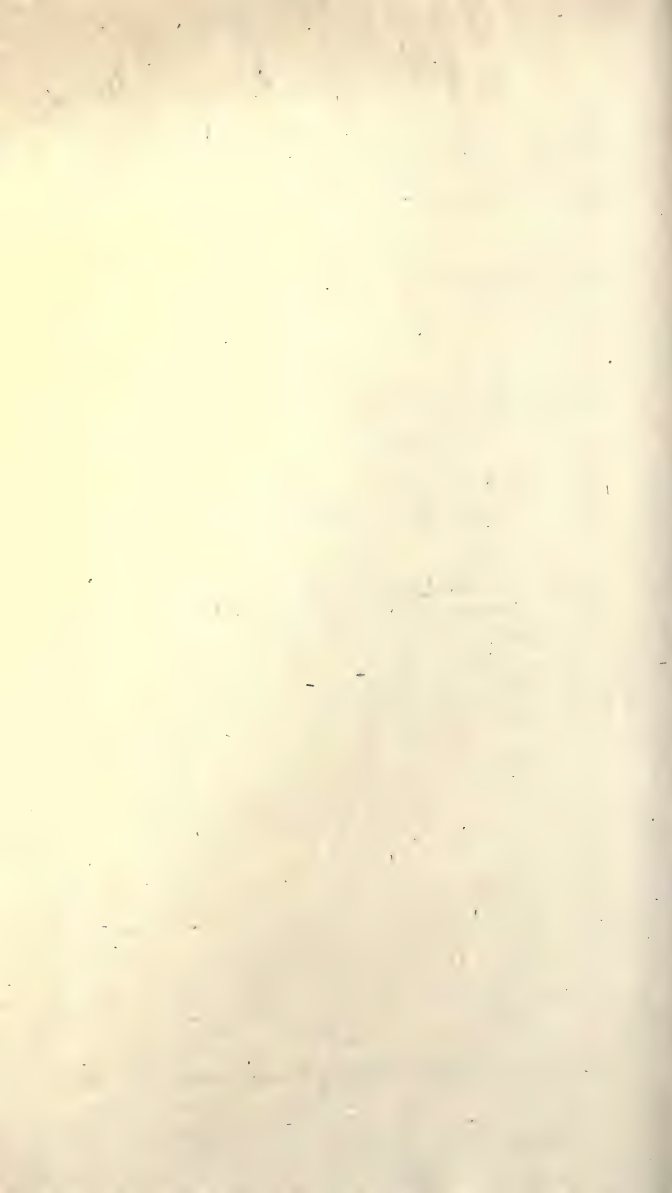
In 1757 the Rev. Nathaniel Scott was presented to the rectory of Thorpe-Abbots, *alias* Cornwallis, by earl Cornwallis.

The steeple is round at bottom, and octangular at top, having a clock and two bells ; the chancel, church, and south porch, are tiled.

There was a brass by the pulpit with this on it :—*Orate pro anima Rogeri Harvey, cujus anime propicietur Deus.*

The arms of the East Angles, and Bury abbey, are in the windows, but no other memorials save a piece of black marble fixed into the south side of the wall in the church-yard, with this :—*Near this place lieth the body of Susan, late wife of Henry Chamberlain, late of Flordon-hall, who died March 1, 1707, aged 71 years.*





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